

## Initial Risk Assessment on the Forresters

### PENNSYLVANIA MODEL RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

ASSESSMENT CODES: Z - NO RISK L - LOW RISK M - MODERATE RISK H - HIGH RISK X - UNABLE TO ASSESS

CASE NAME: **Forrester**

CASE # **00-05-01**

NAME: A. CHILD FACTORS	AGE:	Jon 10	Wendi 5				HIGHEST RISK FACTOR
1. VULNERABILITY		M	H				H
2. SEV/FREQ AND/OR RECENTNESS OF ABUSE/NEGLECT		H	Z				H
3. PRIOR ABUSE/NEGLECT		M	Z				M
4. EXTENT OF EMOTIONAL HARM		M	X				X
NAME: B. CARETAKER, HOUSEHOLD MEMBER, PERPETRATOR	AGE:	Susan 29	Father Unknown				HIGHEST RISK FACTOR
5. AGE, PHYSICAL, INTELLECTUAL OR EMOTIONAL STATUS		M					M
6. COOPERATION		L					L
7. PARENTING SKILLS/KNOWLEDGE		H					H
8. ALCOHOL/SUBSTANCE ABUSE		L					L
9. ACCESS TO CHILDREN		H					H
10. PRIOR ABUSE/NEGLECT		M					M
11. RELATIONSHIP WITH CHILDREN		H					H
C. FAMILY ENVIRONMENT	D. PLEASE USE BACK OF PAGE FOR NARRATIVE						RISK FACTOR
12. FAMILY VIOLENCE							X
13. CONDITION OF THE HOME							Z
14. FAMILY SUPPORTS							H
15. STRESSORS							H
WORKER <b>CAROL JOHNSON</b>	DATE <b>5/14/2004</b>	OVERALL SEVERITY		<b>HIGH</b>			
SUPERVISOR	DATE	OVERALL RISK		<b>HIGH</b>			

# Initial Risk Assessment on the Forresters

## RISK/SEVERITY ASSESSMENT FORM

**D. Note specific evidence supporting all High Risk and Moderate Risk conclusions and justify all "Unable to Assess" ratings. You must provide conclusions regarding Overall Severity/Risk based on the interaction of all factors. Attach extra pages if needed.**

Rationale for the Overall Severity of (H); Susan has hit Jon more than once, resulting in bruising all over the child's body, hitting him in the head with a high risk implement (frying pan) was a dangerous thing to do and caused him a head injury.

Rationale for the Overall Risk of (H); the dangerous combination of certain risk factors such as the child's vulnerability and behaviors, the mother's expectations and interpretation of the child, the stressors which cause her to get frustrated and physically act out, the mother's limited disciplinary skills and her lack of emotional support, combine with the fact that physical abuse that goes unaddressed and unchecked has a tendency to get worse over time.

The basis for the ratings of (H), (M) and (Z) include:

### **Factor 1, Vulnerability:**

Wendi – High (H), the logic is the same as that of Jon's, her young age is the sole reason for the high rating.

Jon – Moderate (M), his physical and emotional development is within the normal range of a child his age, therefore he is rated strictly on his age as per the continuum.

### **Factor 2, Severity, frequency, and/or recentness of abuse/neglect;**

Jon – High (H), the multiple bruising all over his body, the different stages of healing and the most recent serious injury to the head, caused by a dangerous, high risk implement.

Wendi – Presumed No Risk (Z), based on the limited information that she has not been a victim of reported abuse or neglect.

### **Factor 3, Prior abuse/neglect;**

Jon – Moderate (M), technically we have no information on any prior abuse/neglect. The existing bruises from previous beatings are a part of this investigation and are therefore considered in the factor 2. For the purposes of this exercise it can be assumed that Jon's references to always getting hit when his mother gets mad has amounted to other occasions of injury but not to the level of this time.

Wendi – No Risk (Z), the same logic as used for Wendi as in factor 2 applies here also.

### **Factor 4, Extent of emotional harm;**

Jon – Moderate (M), technically this factor was not really addressed, but it was rated according to observable behaviors that represent emotional harm resulting from abuse/neglect. His identified behaviors have not been clearly recognized as beyond the normal range of a nine year old, but, given the seriousness of the abuse and Susan's description of his behavior, we will assume they are

## Initial Risk Assessment on the Forresters

beyond normal and are a result of the abuse.

Wendi – Unable to Assess (X), because Wendi was not a significant part of the contact. We might be able to assume that since she was not the victim of abuse or neglect, she would not have suffered any emotional harm. However, we do not know whether or not she observed the incident where Jon was injured; this could have had a negative impact on her emotionally. Since we have not had opportunity to observe or learn of any signs of emotional harm, we can only justify unable to assess.

### **Caretaker Factors:**

#### **Factor 5, Age, physical, intellectual or emotional status; (Susan)**

Moderate (M), she is 29 years old but has history of criminal behavior and she has poor impulse control. According to the continuum she would qualify as a moderate risk but not high.

#### **Factor 7, Parenting skill/knowledge;**

High (H), as per the continuum she usually resorts to physical means of discipline and has used a high risk implement (fry pan).

#### **Factor 9, Access to children;**

High (H), she has immediate, unlimited access and full responsibility for the care of the child.

#### **Factor 10, Prior abuse/neglect;**

Moderate (M), she revealed having been beaten by her mother and being abandoned by her father, however these instances were never investigated. As per the continuum this would be rated as moderate.

#### **Factor 11, Relationship with children;**

High (H), while her relationship with her daughter appears to be positive, her son is the child at risk, therefore the risk rating is based on this child. Her anger toward Jon is usually extreme and she scapegoats him as the problem.

### **Environmental Factors:**

#### **Factor 12, Family violence;**

Unable to Assess (X), this factor is dealing with adult violence, not child abuse, Caseworker was unable to assess during the first visits and has insufficient information about the adult relationships of her family of origin or with her boyfriends.

#### **Factor 13, Condition of the home;**

No Risk (Z), in spite of the fact that she is on limited income she maintains a nice, appropriate and clean home.

#### **Factor 14, Family supports;**

High (H), this is one of her greater risk areas, she has supports available to her but does not access them in that she does not trust others. She views everyone to be a let down and feels she disappoints them and she thinks she is on her own. She is emotionally isolated.

## Initial Risk Assessment on the Forresters

### **Factor 15, Stressors**

High (H), she is under a great deal of stress. Some of the stressors are; having lost custody of her first child and now being faced with the possibility of losing this one, being a single parent, financial stress, feeling as though she has no one to count on, being put down by her relatives, the pressure of succeeding at the job training program, etc. and feeling she can only trust herself.

**The Safety Assessment** indicates that Jon is **Unsafe** in his own home and needs to be placed in a safe environment, preferably with relatives, until mother can learn both to discipline him and to manage her own anger without injuring Jon. This will take longer than 24 hours, so mother reluctantly agreed to place Jon temporarily with his maternal aunt and not to remove him from her care.

These are the two highest priority needs for services: learning and using safe discipline techniques with Jon and learning and using safe anger management techniques so Jon's behavior can be managed without injuries.