

Four Case Studies:

1. Evelyn Smith, age 25, is a single mother with 2 children: Joyce, age 7 and Bobby, age 2. On March 3, 2004, the police reported to CYS that a passerby had noticed that Bobby was only wearing a diaper when he was outside on the roof of the family home. The police were able to get little Bobby down and upon further investigation, it was determined that Bobby was home alone. Additionally, while the police were at the Smith home, Joyce came home and sheepishly explained to the officers that she had been down at the corner store and had stolen a loaf of bread and some peanut butter. Joyce reported that there was no food in the house and she had not seen her mother since she got home from school yesterday. Joyce has not seen or heard from her father since she was 3 years old and she did not know who Bobby's father was. The children are currently at the police station and mother's whereabouts are unknown. The police plan to arrest the mother when she is found and charge her with endangering the welfare of children. The children could not provide any information about relatives. Children and Youth have no prior history with Evelyn or the children.
2. In October of 2004, the McKain St. Middle School reported to CYS that Levona Jones was habitually truant. Levona Jones is currently a 14 year old 7th grader at McKain St. Middle School. Her mother is Brenda Jones, a secretary at the local Boy Scout's of America office. Levona was held back from going to the 8th grade because she had missed 96 of 180 school days last year and did not pass any of her classes, although she is purported to be an average student with a minor learning disability. Last school year, the school sent home letters with Levona for Brenda, sent registered letters to Brenda's home, and called Brenda at her place of employment. Brenda failed to respond to any of the school's requests for a meeting to discuss Levona's absences. The school is now reporting this case to CYS after Levona missed 17 out of the first 32 days of school this year. This school year, the school has to date been unsuccessful in contacting Brenda at all. CYS has a history of referrals for truancy since Levona was in the 2nd grade at Broad St. Elementary School. Levona's case is currently open with CYS as a General Protection (In-home) case. Over the past 8 months since the case opened, CYS has provided multiple in-home services including Family Preservation Services and an advocate Big Sister. Neither Brenda nor Levona has completed the goals of the Family Service Plan which they signed. Brenda's position has always been that there is nothing she can do once Levona "digs in her heels" and refuses to go to school. Although she has insurance through her job, Brenda has refused to take Levona to counseling or to go to counseling herself.

Four Case Studies (continued):

3. On the evening of October 31, 2004, Billy D. Williams, age 9, and some of his older friends went on a rampage throughout their neighborhood. They threw eggs at people's houses and cars, soaped their windows, and bashed their mailboxes with a baseball bat. At one home, Bill reportedly threw a brick through a neighbor's picture window, smashing the window and breaking a valuable vase that was inside on a table in front of the window. The value of the vase was \$1,500. The owner of the home, Mrs. Wilma Brown, saw Billy throw the brick and called the police and identified Billy as the culprit. When Billy was confronted by the police about his part in these acts, he was completely unremorseful and in fact stated that "This is a rich neighborhood. The people can afford to hire someone to clean up the mess." The police want to file criminal charges against Billy and the rest of the boys for criminal mischief.
4. On February 5, 2004, Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh called Children and Youth to report that a 2 year old girl was in the emergency room. She has a severe fracture of her left tibia (a leg bone). Her name is Abby Rose. Monica Rose, the child's mother, has no explanation for this injury except to say that perhaps she incurred the injury when she fell down while playing. The doctors response to this explanation is that this injury cannot be caused by a routine fall, because extreme blunt force trauma to the area is required for such a break. It is likely that Abby will require a great deal of physical therapy in order to be able to walk again and may have a permanent limp. A further examination of Abby, including a full set of skeletal X-rays, revealed a healed fracture to her right ulna (arm bone) and healing rib fractures on both sides of her chest. The hospital staff also reported that the child winces whenever her mother approaches her and that the mother has a strong odor of alcohol on her breath and seems "out of it". Children's Hospital has identified Abby Rose as an abused child. CYC has had prior reports of the mother abusing the child but has been unable to substantiate any of them. The child's father, Robert Iman, was recently convicted for the 2nd time for possession of crack cocaine and is serving a 2-4 year sentence at Western State Penitentiary. He has never lived with Monica Rose and has never seen nor paid support for Abby.

Four Case Studies (continued):

1. Given the facts of this case, could a petition alleging dependency be filed in juvenile court? Why or why Not?
2. Under what provision of the Juvenile Act is dependency alleged?
3. Are there aggravated circumstances?
4. If so, under what provision of ASFA are there aggravated circumstances?
5. Is emergency protective custody necessary? Why or why not?
6. Has the agency provided any services as reasonable efforts to prevent placement? If so what efforts have been provided?