

CASE VIGNETTES

Instructions: Identify the stage of casework that each case is in.

- #1:** Mrs. Lee is calling to report her concern about her neighbor's three year old child being allowed to play outside unsupervised on a busy street. She has observed this happening at least six times in the past several weeks. She does not know who is at home watching the child when this happens. There doesn't seem to be a pattern in the time of day or the days of the week when it happens. She thinks the agency should send a worker out as soon as possible to check this out before the child is hurt, abducted or killed.
- #2:** Mr. Theos has had legal custody of his brother's four year old son, Alphonse, Jr., for the past two years, while his brother, Alphonse, Sr., has been serving a life sentence without parole for shooting a police officer during a robbery. Mr. Theos is going to court today to finalize the adoption of his nephew as a single parent. Alphonse's mother was killed by the police in the shooting. Mr. Theos does not think that he will need post-adoption services from the county agency or from the private agency who arranged the adoption for him.
- #3:** Tina and John Potter had their six children removed from their care and placed in foster care one night two years ago when their utilities had been shut off for non-payment and their neighbor reported that they were huddled around a bon-fire of furniture behind their home in rural Pennsylvania. Since then, John has completed a job training program and secured a job as a short haul truck driver. Tina has been working as a part-time custodian in the elementary school. They have maintained their home with utilities for the past three months and the county agency has agreed to allow the older three children to return home on a trial basis.
- #4:** Shaun, an intake worker at the local county child welfare agency, is covering intake cases for the afternoon. He just got off the phone with a Mrs. Lee, who called to report that her neighbor's three year old child is allowed to play outside for hours at a time without supervision in a very busy neighborhood. After completing the intake report, he checked the agency files for prior reports and found none. He is in his supervisor's office discussing the appropriate risk tag for this referral.

Case Vignettes (continued)

- #5:** Marlo, a 27 year old county child welfare caseworker, is in the home of Jimmy Jimenez and Lisa Mattison. His agency received a report a few days ago that Jimmy and Lisa were having difficulty making ends meet since the birth of their third child and Jimmy's accident on his motorcycle, which prevents him from working his job as a part-time wood cutter at the local lumber mill. While his boss has been holding his job in hopes Jimmy will be able to return to work in a week or two, there has been no pay check for three weeks and the family is said to be living on food donated by friends and relatives; however, they have been running short on baby formula and diapers and the landlord is threatening to evict them. Marlo is finding it hard to concentrate on his interview, being distracted by the three dogs and the ferret who are running around the living room, which smells strongly of urine and dog feces.
- #6:** Martina, a 35 year old General Protective Services Caseworker at the local county child welfare agency recently received a case through transfer from Marlo, one of the workers in the Intake and Service Planning Unit. Marlo determined that the three children of Jimmy Jimenez and Lisa Mattison were at risk for physical neglect, but because their extended family was so supportive and because they were cooperative in implementing the immediate safety plan during the intake and investigation, the children have been allowed to remain at home. Martina is responsible for developing the Family Service Plan with the parents and continuing to assess the safety of the children in the home during the next several weeks before Jimmy returns to work and the income in the family stabilizes. She has brought a case of diapers from the local mission, information about food bank eligibility, and a large bag of dog food donated by the Humane Society.
- #7:** Martina, a 35 year old General Protective Services Caseworker at the local county child welfare agency, has been providing General Protective Services to the three children of Jimmy Jimenez and Lisa Mattison, who were adjudicated dependent children because of the on-going physical neglect by their parents at a court hearing 4 months ago. In a few weeks, their case will be reviewed by the judge to see if they are still dependent and in need of services from the agency. Their extended family has continued to be very supportive and the parents and their relatives have consistently been cooperative in implementing the safety plans so the children have been allowed to remain at home. However, Jimmy was unable to return to work and it will be a few more months before his disability checks arrive and the family has continued to have difficulty making ends meet. They have cleaned up the dog feces and the house no longer smells of urine; however, they still rely on donations from family and community members to feed and clothe the children. Martina must prepare a report for the court and make a recommendation about continuing services.