

Case Goal Activity #2

Debbie is six years old and has been in care since she was three years old. She was initially placed into foster care at the request of her biological father, Bob. He came into the agency stating that the child's mother, Susan, had left the young child with him for several days but did not return for her. Stating that he was scheduled to go into an alcohol rehab program due to a drinking problem, he could no longer care for Debbie. The child was placed in foster care that day. The mother was located several days later and admitted to having a drug problem. She agreed to sign a voluntary placement agreement and planned to go into rehab program herself.

Susan entered the drug rehab program, but left prior to completion. She consistently maintained her interest in having Debbie returned to her. Nine months after placement, Debbie spent an overnight visit in her mother's home. Upon return to the foster home, she complained of vaginal irritation. The foster-mother noticed that the area was red and brought the child to the doctor who suspected sexual abuse and reported this to the agency. An investigation was conducted. The mother denied knowing anything about the abuse and also stated that no one else was home that night. The abuse was indicated and the mother named as the perpetrator by omission. Subsequent information revealed that Susan was passed out from drugs with two men in her apartment during Debbie's visit. Susan was no longer permitted to have overnight visits with Debbie.

According to the family service plan, Susan was required to successfully complete a drug rehab program, remain drug free, attend counseling, attend parenting classes, and visit Debbie. Susan admitted that she started her drug use at age 13 with years of intravenous drug use. While it was never proven, there were strong suspicions that she was also prostituting. Although Susan entered several rehabs, she never successfully completed any program. Visits were then court ordered to be supervised by a caseworker after the mother came to the agency for a visit visibly under the influence of a narcotic.

After three years in foster care, the father is no longer involved and the mother has not made much progress meeting the family service plan objectives. Susan does have a loving relationship with her daughter and Debbie does look forward to the visits and enjoys the time she spends with her mother. Debbie has expressed a fear of returning to live with her mother. The child has been in counseling for the last eighteen months to help her deal with the sexual abuse. She has also been having some problems in school. She is a very shy, timid child who has difficulty expressing her feelings. It was recently learned that when Debbie was born, she had narcotics in her system. There is concern that she may also have learning difficulties. If the goal is changed to adoption, the foster parents are interested in adopting her.