

Live Case Consultation Scenario Examples

Child welfare-related persona profiles for skill practice and demonstration.



The following scenarios represent children, youth, and families that child welfare professionals may come in contact with in the course of their work. Each of these scenarios, while fictitious, may closely resemble actual life experiences, but names and incidents are products of the author's imagination and not based on real people.

Janette

Jeanette recently slapped her son after hearing about something he did at school and there is now a social worker involved with the family. Growing up, her family often utilized corporal punishment. Jeanette wants the best for her family, and sees her method of discipline as necessary if her children are confused. She is feeling upset and confused about why she is having to talk about her behavior with a therapist.

Amber

Amber (16) is in foster care with her son, Xavier (6 months). They currently reside with Amber's resource parents. Amber has missed curfew several nights in a row and is now at risk of losing her and her son's current placement due to not following the rules. Amber does not understand why she has a curfew when she knows her foster parents will take care of her son.

Charlotte

A call of suspected child abuse was made to the local child welfare agency regarding Charlotte's, children, Ben (10) and Keri (7) after Ben showed bruises on his legs to his teacher. Charlotte is a single parent who is underemployed and does her best to make ends meet. It seems Ben was showing disrespect to his mother by not cleaning his room when requested and telling Charlotte he had no intention of cleaning as this was "her job!" Charlotte expressed she was frustrated and did hit Ben with a belt on his legs. She is angry that the case worker is in her home as she should be able to parent how she sees appropriate for her children.

Greg

Greg has an informal custody arrangement for his 11-year-old daughter with his ex-wife. During a recent visit, his daughter told him that a Child Protective Services investigator came to her mom's home and she had to stay with her mom's sister for two days because "they said so." His daughter also shared that a social worker sometimes comes to her mom's home to talk to her about how she is doing. Greg was unaware of CPS being involved with his daughter and wants to know why he wasn't informed.

Eliza

Eliza is a 27-year-old woman with a 9-year-old son, Vince. The child welfare agency hotline received a report stating Eliza was transported to the hospital by a rideshare company following an overdose on prescription medication. She was taken to the hospital with her son, Vince. She is now being admitted to the hospital but is refusing to give any information to assist in planning for Vince's care while she is hospitalized.