

Answer Key

CHAPTER 2

ACTIVITY 2E: HOW A CASE ENTERS THE SYSTEM

Stage 1 Question: Who reported suspected abuse in the four scenarios you read?

Answers:

Scenario 1 reporter: Delma Barnes, the child's neighbor

Scenario 2 reporter: The child's daycare worker

Scenario 3 reporter: Susan Williams, the children's teacher

Scenario 4 reporter: Valerie Alajuwon, a doctor

Stage 2 Question: In which scenario was the report screened out before the investigation stage? Why?

Answer: The report in the first scenario was screened out because spanking a 7-year-old does not meet the legal definition of abuse or neglect.

Stage 3 Question: In which scenario was the case closed after investigation? Why?

Answer: In the second scenario the case was closed because Joey's injury was accidental and there was no evidence of abuse or neglect.

Stage 4 Question: In which scenario was a petition filed? Why?

Answer: In the fourth scenario the child protection agency filed a petition requesting that the court intervene to ensure Alexa's care, supervision, and protection. In the third scenario, although neglect was confirmed, the child protection agency felt they could work with the family without court intervention.

ACTIVITY 2H: ROLES IN THE HARRIS-PRICE CASE

Some of these quotes could have been said by more than one person involved in the case. If you have questions about the answers below, note them in the Parking Lot and ask the facilitator at the debriefing session for this chapter.

Quotes

Robert: "I want to live with my dad."

Ben: "I worry about Robert and Rose—they're used to me taking care of them. When can I see them?"

Kathy Price: "I'm doing the best I can."

Ernie Price: "I know that I am responsible and I can do it, especially since my mom will help."

Jason Harris: "He is 14 and he is almost on his own. He doesn't need me."

Carol Hill: "I will take him in, but I can't take the others."

Judge Romero: “Why aren’t the siblings visiting?”

Bob Johnson, CPS caseworker: “This family has tried, but there are still problems.”

Norma Jackson, CASA/GAL volunteer: “I do not have all the information yet.”

Anne Franklin, foster mother: “I’m worried about Rose. She’s not doing the things other babies I’ve cared for could do.”

Mother’s attorney: “Ben was babysitting. He’s 14. She did not leave the children alone.”

Attorney for CPS: “The children need a more stable living situation.”

CHAPTER 4

ACTIVITY 4G: STRESS LEVEL ASSESSMENT

Kathy’s results

Jail term = 63

Personal injury or illness = 53

Fired at work = 47

Pregnancy = 40

Gain new family member = 39

Trouble with boss = 23

Change in working hours or conditions = 20

Change in residence = 20

Minor violation of the law = 11

Total = 316

ACTIVITY 4I: CONDITIONS THAT MAY LEAD TO ABUSE & NEGLECT

In many families more than one condition contributes to the reason child protective services files a petition for the court’s intervention.

1. **Child-Related Factors:** In the Harris-Price training case, an example is Ben’s asthma, which requires that Kathy take time off work to take Ben to the doctor and fill his prescription.

2. **Parent/Caretaker-Related Factors:** A number of problems—depression, substance abuse issues, health concerns, poor coping skills—contribute to Kathy’s inability to adequately parent her children.
3. **Social-Situational Factors:** Poverty alone should never be the reason a child is removed, but it is often a substantial factor in neglect situations. Kathy’s lack of employment skills forces her to work in low-paying jobs. Her absence from home for work is a major factor in the neglect. Additionally, her limited reading skills hinder her in caring adequately for her children: She is unable to fill out child support forms or fill Ben’s asthma prescription. Kathy may also feel stress from other people’s prejudice toward Robert, who is biracial.
4. **Family Factors:** Kathy is a single parent, and the children’s fathers do not help with their care.
5. **Triggering Situations:** The neglect was not precipitated by one triggering situation. However, the children’s removal was caused by Kathy’s arrest and subsequent absence from home.

CHAPTER 5

ACTIVITY 5G: POVERTY VS. NEGLECT

Following are some possible factors that can help you think through the question of whether a particular situation amounts to poverty or neglect:

What is the family’s economic level?

Are cultural issues present that might cause a family not to ask for help?

Are there language or literacy barriers that prevent the family from accessing resources? Is the situation temporary or permanent?

What is the age of the child?

Are other risk factors (such as substance abuse) present?