



IDTA Fact Pattern: NJ Composite

2011



Bringing Systems Together for
Family Recovery, Safety, and Stability





Uses for Fact Pattern Case History

- The following summary depicts a NJ composite case history gleaned from a review of case records of parents with substance use histories who are involved in NJ's child welfare system.
- The fact pattern/case history summary provides a compelling rationale for why the dosage, intensity and duration of behavioral health and related services must be sufficient to meet “reasonable clinical efforts” or risk setting the parents and family up to fail.
- The fact pattern/case history summary can be used to generate identification of, and discussion about, the array of services and recovery supports that can be leveraged to assist the parents and their children.





Fact Pattern Case History

- Single head of household mother
- Mother's age: 28 yrs old and 7 mos pregnant (and no prenatal care)
- 3 kids (ages 2, 4, and 8)
- Mother's drug use history: (12 year drug-history: heroin, cocaine, alcohol and marijuana)
- Co-occurring MH problems
- Criminal history: (drugs, panhandling, DV)
- Education history: 10th grade education no GED
- Employment history and current status: No stable employment- sanctions for no work





Fact Pattern Case History (cont.)

- 2 prior involvements with CW system
- Type of family support available if any: 2 fathers, 1 in jail. Currently no child support. Mother on multiple economic assistance programs
- Living situation: Public housing (may now lose for drug charges)
- Other family challenges: One child has sickle cell anemia
- Family strengths: Unknown at this time





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FACT PATTERN

Helen X is 7 months pregnant and has 3 children. The children are Sara, age 2, Amy, age 4 and Darren, age 8. Amy has Sickle Cell Anemia. Helen is 28 years old and lives in public housing. She was arrested by the East Orange Police for panhandling. Helen also had her children panhandling with her. The police observed erratic behavior exhibited by Helen and tested her for drug use. Helen tested positive for heroin, cocaine and marijuana. Helen indicated that she was 7 months pregnant and had not received any prenatal care.

The East Orange Police called DYFS who placed the 3 children in foster care.

Helen had recently moved to the area from West Virginia. She has two prior involvements with the child welfare agency in West Virginia. Helen indicated that Wayne J is the father of the Amy and Darren. Wayne is currently in jail and owes substantial child support arrears to Helen for the 2 children. Helen indicated that Frank S is the father of her unborn child and Sara. Helen has not had contact with Frank and does not know where he currently lives or if he is working.

Helen is currently receiving sanction welfare for failure to find employment (sanction welfare means she does not receive any money only food stamps). It is suspected that Helen has possible mental health issues.

When the police asked for documentation such as a driver's license, birth certificates for the children or any other forms of identification, Helen advised that Wayne destroyed her documents by burning them. Helen admits that there is a history of domestic violence between her and Wayne. Helen also advises that she only attended school to the 10th grade. Helen did not graduate from high school nor did she obtain her GED.

Please provide how your agency would assist Helen and her children. Please advise as to when your agency would become involved with Helen.