



## Nine-Year-Old Billy

Police call your agency to report the following:

Billy came home from school to find his grandmother slumped in the chair. He called 9-1-1 and when the police arrived; they asked Billy if he lived with his grandmother. Billy told him that he was only staying with his grandmother for a couple of days until his father returned. Billy indicated he did not know where his father was and that he hadn't seen his mother in many months.

The neighbor indicated she could help Mrs. Hamilton by keeping Billy for a couple of days.

When the intake worker interviewed Billy, a 9-year-old, African-American child, she noticed bruises on his face and upper arm. When asked about the marks, he said, "Dad found out I ditched school last week and let me have it." In addition, Billy states there isn't much food in the house; sometimes he's alone overnight and doesn't know where his father is. When his father is home, Billy frequently stays home to run "errands" for his father.

The hospital social worker just called your agency to report that Mrs. Hamilton, age 74, is nearly blind due to diabetes and can no longer manage her injections. She is a recent widow, has no one to care for her, and will be moving directly to the nursing home from the hospital. Her 29-year-old son had left Billy with her and said he would be back in a few hours; that was four days ago.

Billy visits Mrs. Hamilton often. She would like to care for him but cannot due to her poor health. Her son cared for Billy since his girlfriend, Billy's mother, left ten months ago. She has paranoid schizophrenia and did not respond to medication or counseling. Her whereabouts are unknown. Mrs. Hamilton knows of no other family members who can care for Billy.

Mrs. Hamilton thinks her son is involved in the drug culture. He disappears for long periods, often with Billy. She worries that Billy is being exposed to "bad elements" and is not getting the proper care.

Billy needs placement. You are Billy's intake worker and are planning his placement. Consider the following:

- What tasks would you perform to prepare Billy, his grandmother, his prospective caregivers, and his family for the move?
- How would you place Billy to minimize stress for all parties?