



Seventeen-Year-Old Billy

Billy was staying with his grandmother, Mrs. Pauline Hamilton, while being suspended from school. He went to the store and when he returned, he found his grandmother slumped in the chair. He called 9-1-1. When the police came, Billy told them he didn't know where his parents were; he was only staying with his grandmother for a couple of days.

When the intake worker interviewed Billy, a 17-year-old, African-American youth, she noticed bruises on his face and upper arm. When asked about the marks, he said, "Dad got mad when I refused to run errands for him, and he let me have it." In addition, Billy states there isn't much food in the house; sometimes he's alone for several days and doesn't know where his father is. When his father is home, Billy frequently stays home from school to run "errands" for his father.

Billy will stay with a friend for the weekend.

The hospital social worker reports Mrs. Hamilton was in diabetic shock and is no longer able to manage her injections. She will be moving to the nursing home from the hospital. Her husband recently passed away.

Mrs. Hamilton is 82, nearly blind due to diabetes and has a severe case of rheumatoid arthritis. She reports that her 37-year-old son had left Billy with her and said he would be back in a couple of days; that was four days ago. She hadn't seen or heard from him since. Her son cared for Billy since his girlfriend, Billy's mother, left ten months ago. The whereabouts of Billy's mother are unknown. She has paranoid schizophrenia and did not respond to medication or counseling. 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 leaving Billy home alone. She worries that Billy is being exposed to "bad elements" and is becoming actively involved in the drug culture.

Billy needs placement. You are Billy's intake worker and are planning his placement.

Consider the following:

Caseworker Core Module VIII: *Separation, Placement, and Reunification*,
Written by IHS for Ohio Child Welfare Training Program – FINAL - July 2008

- 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 to all parties?