

DAVIS INTAKE

The Children's Hospital social worker has called the agency to report that abuse is suspected for a child brought to the emergency room. The child is a two-year-old African-Mexican-American male named James Green. He was brought to the hospital by Mrs. Martha Davis, his grandmother. Mrs. Davis indicated that her 19-year-old daughter, Donna, left James at her house. Donna and her two children live in a subsidized two bedroom apartment. About two months ago, Donna's new boyfriend moved into the home. Since this time, Mrs. Davis has been caring for James more frequently.

This time Donna left James with Mrs. Davis and left James' 4 ½ year old sister, Deanna, at the children's father's house. James and Donna have never been married and they have not been to court to establish custody of the children.

Mrs. Davis had her daughter sign a temporary child care agreement to provide medical care in her absence. Mrs. Davis did not want to take any chances as she still feels uncomfortable with "bureaucracy" since her arrival in the U.S. from Mexico twenty years ago.

Donna said she was going to visit a friend and would be back in a few hours. She had not returned after 6 hours. Mrs. Davis said that James had been crying continuously since Donna left him.

Mrs. Davis said that she first thought James was just "under the weather" but then noticed that his arm was becoming swollen and looked bruised. James does not yet talk but he keeps pulling at his arm and he is not using it. The hospital x-rays revealed a spiral fracture of the upper arm. The examining physician thought it was probably an inflicted injury.

Mrs. Davis told the hospital social worker that Donna had left James in her care before. This time she thinks that Donna went away with her new boyfriend. When Mrs. Davis was told that James' arm was broken, and that the type of injury suggested probable abuse, Mrs. Davis said that Donna often lost her temper but wouldn't hurt her child. Her boyfriend however, was capable of hurting him. She said she would care for James temporarily.

Mrs. Davis also reported that James' and his sister attend a day care center in their neighborhood while Donna works.

You are the intake caseworker and have received the above report from the intake screener. There have been no previous reports of maltreatment received on Donna or Mrs. Davis. However, there had been an open case on Donna, who had been placed in a group home briefly as a 15-year-old when she was out of Mrs. Davis' control and using drugs. She was returned to Mrs. Davis after six months in care and completion of drug counseling. The case was closed.