

## **ADOLESCENCE Placement Exercise** (12-18 years)

The family consists of 38-year-old mother (Jessica) and two children: 15-year-old Courtney and 13-year-old Destiny.

The agency became involved with the family after it received a phone call from the school nurse. Courtney said her mother hit her in the face and she fell on her knee, causing it to swell. The school nurse said she is presenting with concussion signs, leg is swollen, and she was having a hard time walking to class.



When the caseworker spoke with her, Courtney said she was yelling at her sister for taking her charger, and her mother came into her room. Courtney stated her mother grabbed her by her hair and hit her several times in the face. The caseworker asked her if it was an open or closed fist and Courtney could not recall. Courtney stated she grabbed her mother's hands to make her stop. When she did this, Jessica's boyfriend entered the room to break up the fight. When he pulled Jessica off Courtney, Jessica reportedly fell onto Courtney and onto her knee.

Courtney has a history of running away and staying at the juvenile detention center. Upon interview, Courtney has plans of being independent, but until she can, she wants to live with her aunt because "she's old and smells nice." Courtney reported she would not be able to talk with the caseworker past 12:00 because that is when she "runs the streets." Destiny reported things are very tense when Courtney is in the home: "She tends to try everything she can to get my mom mad."

Jessica has no cognitive, physical, emotional, or mental delays that would keep her from providing for the basic needs of her children. Jessica reports she wants Courtney out of the house because she is going to cause her to lose her other daughter. She cannot control Courtney and "can't stop herself when Courtney takes it there." In addition, she has burned all the bridges with relatives and they will not take her in.

Your safety assessment found an active safety threat for Courtney, you have to determine a safety response/placement decision.

Assign your group members a role below then initiate and implement Courtney's safety plan/placement in front of the rest of the training class.

Roles: Jessica, Courtney, Caseworker, Kin/Foster Caregiver?

Optional roles: Narrator and/or Supervisor