

Examples of Cases Coded
"Unclear, Some Concerns"

- An infant was in placement for six months after being born with methamphetamine in his system. He was returned to his mother in September 2005 despite her not completing drug treatment. The child was found abandoned in California in October 2005 and returned to Las Vegas. He was returned to his mother in April (with no SA or FRAP) and has not been visited since then.
- Kids removed due to NM's drug usage, no food, electricity turned off, filth, and lack of supervision; they were placed with their NF. The mother moved back into the home in March without the worker's knowledge. The NF was then ordered out of the home by the judge due to drug usage, but NM was left with the kids. Now NM has a new baby and no FRAP, SA, or case plan has been completed.
- A baby was placed with his PGPs despite significant criminal history on both grandparents (about which they lied on the ICPC application). Even the NF has expressed concern about his parents having the child.
- NF killed the NM, and kids were placed with relatives who are illegal aliens. They cannot adopt, as they will probably be deported during the background check. The kids cannot achieve permanency. There were non-criminal relatives willing to take the kids, but now they are bonded to the relatives they are placed with.
- Baby brought to Las Vegas from New York by a fictive kin who dumped the child at Child Haven. Three months later DFS returned the child to this kin over the NMs objections; despite the fact that this fictive kin has no job and no apparent income. The child has not been seen in the 2 ½ months since the return.
- Kids placed with grandparents who had them before and illegally gave them back to drug-abusing parents without court or agency approval. Parents continue to test with high levels of drugs and probably have access to the kids.
- Substance exposed infant placed in foster home on January 31, not seen since then.
- 4 year old who's been in and out of placement his whole life, placed with grandparents on March 9 and never visited (5 ½ months).
- Very young children placed with their NF due to NM substance abuse. The worker feels they are safe, but she was unaware of NFs past history of sexual abuse of minors because she had not read the file.

- The worker is diligently working to get TPR granted on 5 and 6 year old children due to parental abuse and neglect, but didn't even know that another worker just reunified a 5 month old with this mother.
- After a serious "shaken baby" incident, this baby was removed and has not recovered from her injuries. Neither parent admits to causing the injuries, but the worker recommended reunification. The judge was very upset and ordered closer monitoring before reunification is considered.
- Judge ordered an infant and a toddler placed with the grandmother despite DFS and the district attorney's objections – the grandmother is elderly, has health problems, and has tested positive for methamphetamine.
- Substance exposed infant born on 3/ /06. The worker did not believe the parent could safely keep the child. When no relative was located, the child was returned to the mother because "Child Haven was not accepting babies". The worker did not then visit the baby for four months. Both parents still testing positive for drugs.
- 3 young children were removed for neglect in November 2005. They were returned six weeks ago, but there has been no visit to check on them. Also, the NM had a new baby in June, but the worker states "that child is not my responsibility".
- Two kids were taken into custody and made wards four months ago and were placed with relatives. They were moved from relative to relative without DFS permission, and sometimes living with their mother. A recent home visit revealed that the children had moved again to an unknown address with another relative.
- Children were removed from their mother due to abuse and she has left the state. The worker is pursuing placement with the father. The reviewer informed the worker that the father was charged with sexual abuse of a minor a year ago with no disposition yet. The worker was unaware of the charges.
- A 5 year old was removed due to domestic violence and placed with his grandmother. The worker has to see him at school, as the grandmother will not allow home visits. The child has never been seen at this home (8 months).
- The mother has severe mental health issues and her baby is placed with the MGM, but hasn't been seen in 3 months. NM has abducted the baby in the past and is exhibiting bizarre behavior. The worker, who is new, states she is "over her head" on this case.
- 4 year old left alone in a car while his mother played slots at 3:00 am. She was arrested, but the child was returned when she was released and the case was

closed despite the fact that she was 9 months pregnant and has two other children removed and placed with relatives.

- NF stabbed NM 12 times and is in jail. The baby also received a slight injury. The NM doesn't feel the NF is a risk and plans on reuniting with him when he's released. Domestic Violence victims counseling is desperately needed.
- 5 kids removed due to DV, substance abuse, and sexual abuse of the 10 year old. The father is in jail, but is being released this week. The kids have been returned to the NM who does not believe the NF sexually abused the 10 year.
- Mother was in jail for child endangerment, but escaped and is at large. Grandmother has the baby and is not cooperating with DFS or the police. The worker obtained information about the mother's location, but only made an anonymous call to the police.
- Mother has abused and neglected her baby, and has allowed others to abuse her. The baby is also failure to thrive. The child is in placement, but the judge ordered overnight, unsupervised visits.
- Many, many cases where the children are probably safe, but there are no documented visits for 3, 4, 5, or even 12 months.
- Many cases where children have been placed with relatives in other state through the Interstate Compact, but caseworkers have received no updates regarding the child for months or years. It is unclear whether anyone is visiting many of these children.

Examples of Cases Coded "Unclear - Action Needed"

- A two year old drowned in a backyard pool while NF was watching cartoons with a 2 y/o half-sibling. The dead child had multiple bruises on various parts of his body. At first the natural parents blamed a 5 y/o sibling for hitting the 2 y/o with a stick, then later blamed the other 2 y/o for hitting the dead child with a stick. There is no documentation that CPS ever interviewed the 5 y/o about the events surrounding the drowning or the marks on the dead child. The parents agreed to a polygraph, but then changed their minds. The worker has never seen or interviewed the parents and has never been inside the home. The worker sees the kids at day care, but gave three different versions: first she said she sees the kids once a week, then later said she has seen them a total of 3 times in five months, then said she has seen them twice in 5 months. She has not interviewed the children and stated that she plays with them just to get to know them. Finally, she

stated that she is not sure what she's supposed to do during the visits. To summarize – there are young children still in a home where a toddler, with multiple bruises on his body, drowned. The role of DFS in this situation is unclear, both immediately following the death and now.

- This family has six kids, ranging in age from 1 to 10 years old. The kids were placed with relatives, with the natural mother (NM) having visitation. After one visit, the children were not returned to the relative. The worker decided to leave them with NM and classify them as being reunified, despite the lack of progress on the case plan objectives and the fact that the family violated the agreement regarding the living arrangements. There have been four occasions since then where community people have called saying that the children are begging for food, but the worker did not report any of them to the hotline for a CPS investigation. The worker claims that pieces of food on the floor were "reasons to believe" that the kids are fed enough! The worker seemed unconcerned that the "reunification" occurred on December 15, despite the fact that the mother had been evicted from her home on December 2 and the worker was not sure where she was living at the time. Finally, the worker feels "sort of" confident that the kids are safe because she has visited them several times recently, but none of these visits are documented anywhere (UNITY or case file) and she was unable to remember the dates.
- An infant has large bruises covering much of her face. Her natural father (NF) hit her for playing with her poop; he stated that he has a right to discipline his child. He has been in jail several times for violent acts and NM has bailed him out each time. NM refuses to participate in a Family Team Meeting until after court, as she wants the charges dropped (against NF) and feels there will then be no need for DFS involvement. NF is out on bail and NM has allowed him back in the home in violation of the safety plan. The NM has an 11 y/o son by a previous relationship who lives there and is often left alone to babysit the infant. The NF (step-father to the 11 y/o) has made extremely negative remarks about the 11 y/o and the reviewer feels he will be in danger for talking with CPS. Immediate action and probably removal should occur.
- Child was returned to natural mother who feels she has no service needs, despite extensive drug history and an incident of leaving an infant alone in the recent past. The worker has not seen the child in 2 ½ months and has never conducted a safety assessment. The worker agreed to see the child within 48 hours and complete a safety assessment.
- Children residing with Maternal Grandmother, but mother may be in the home. MGM expresses anger at DFS workers and defends mother. Grandfather is here illegally and using a fake SSN and will not cooperate with case plan. 8 year old child received a serious burn and a cut on his hand last year – unexplained and uninvestigated. No documentation that any of the kids have ever been

interviewed privately. Worker agreed to interview the school-age children privately at school.

- Four children – two in foster care, two with Grandparents. None of the kids have been seen for 3 months. During the last visit in March, one child reported that stepgrandmother beats him. There is no documentation that this incident was ever investigated. Worker agreed to interview the children privately.
- Three year old was abused by NM last year (bruises, blood vessel in eye broken), but no investigation occurred. The child is now in a foster home for other reasons. In November, the foster parent hit the child with a belt -- no investigation occurred, the child was simply moved to another home. This child has never been interviewed privately about any of the abuse incidents. The worker agreed to go interview the child privately.
- Worker feels the pre-school aged child is safe because the foster parent is “dedicated”. However, the worker has not seen the child for 6 months, and only twice in the past year. Worker agreed to visit the child this week.
- Three year old child was allegedly physically abused by natural father. He took a polygraph and the results noted that he was being “deceptive”. No further action occurred and the child has never been seen or interviewed privately, and has not been seen at all since before the polygraph. Worker agreed to check on the child immediately.
- The worker states two pre-schoolers are safe in a foster home because she has used it before. However, she has not seen the children for several months, and only once in the past year (the explanation was that the foster mother does a lot of work and is, therefore, unavailable). The worker has never spoken to the children privately.
- Three young children were returned to mother upon her completion of initial drug treatment, and the case was closed. However, the worker stated that she feels the kids are at great risk due to past abuse and neglect. When asked why the case was closed, she stated that her supervisor told her that the case would soon “explode” and that DFS should not have an open case when it does. The worker was asked to define “explode” – she stated that the children will be hurt.
- Kids placed with a relative in Utah, but there is no documentation that anyone from CW has seen the children in the past 20 months. NM has now begun working on her case plan and worker is unsure whether to move toward reunification or guardianship.
- Two pre-school children placed with an aunt in a high risk case (a sibling died due to neglect). The aunt has violated the “no parental contact” before and the worker is not confident that the aunt is protecting the children by preventing

parental contact at this time. Worker advised to see the children and do a safety assessment ASAP.

- A child died and a pediatrician expert documented Shaken Baby Syndrome. No charges were filed and nothing Substantiated, allegedly because it was unclear which parent injured the child. The natural father has a history of having two other children removed from his care due to fractured ribs and ankles. The mother is pregnant and, according to the worker, no "hold" will be placed on the baby because the District Attorney wants to "give her another chance."
- The NF stabbed the NM 14 times with a knife and stabbed the PGM once while she held the infant. The PGM dropped the baby, who also received a minor injury from the knife. NM wants charges dropped against NF and says she won't testify against him or get a TPO. NM also refuses to attend any DV related classes. The child is still with the mother and it is clear that, when the NF is released from jail, she will allow him access to the infant.
- A one year old girl was abused four months ago – fractured femur, black eyes, bruises on thighs, bruises on top of feet, dislocated shoulder. NM says the baby fell. The worker has allowed the NM to have unsupervised visits because she has completed some parenting classes and partial drug treatment for methamphetamine addiction. Even her boyfriend says that NM neglects the child.
- Children were reunified with NM after being abused by NF. There is a safety plan in place that NF is not to have contact with the children, but NM has repeatedly violated the safety plan. No additional safety action has been taken.
- A six year old and a two year old were removed due to abuse and neglect by NM, who has serious MH issues – there is no documentation that these issues have been resolved. The children were placed with an aunt. The aunt spent several weeks in the hospital – during that time the kids were given back to NM without informing the caseworker. The worker decided to reunify the kids with NM on 3/18/06 without seeing them, with no safety or risk assessment. The 6 y/o has not been seen since 12/21/05, and the 2 y/o hasn't been seen since 8/7/05.
- NM reported that kids (who are wards) often come back from visitation with NF with bruises and unexplained marks. The worker never made a CPS report. A week later the mother made the report – it was Unsubstantiated and the bruises were fading. During an earlier investigation the CPS worker told NF it's okay to hit the kids, but "don't leave bruises".
- Both parents have a history of beating the children, but several poor investigations greatly delayed the children from being placed outside the home. The worker told the children that their parents can hit them as long as they don't leave bruises. The worker stated that the mother has major mental health issues that will endanger the children if they are returned, but the case plan contains no objectives

or goals relating to addressing the mental health problem. The worker agreed to update the case plan.

- The stepfather badly abused a five year old -- his body, penis, and anus were "covered with bruises". Police were never called, and worker feels it is too late now (probably right). When asked why the police weren't called to arrest the abuser, the worker said "I don't know". The child is the result of father/daughter incest and is the target of both parents. The NM admitted hitting the kid, but this was never addressed. The stepfather doesn't allow mother to talk to any neighbors or family members, a classic DV situation. The school stopped reporting the abusive incidents because they felt the child just got hit again following the reports.
- Two child abuse reports were Unsubstantiated with no contacts with the children. The NM has a long history of beating the children and letting others beat them. An allegation of possible sexual abuse was never investigated. Children are with NM because, allegedly, the boyfriend is "out of the picture". However, the worker suspects this is not so, but has taken no protective action. Worker was advised to redo the case plan to address NM's violence and to get a sexual abuse assessment done for the child.
- Seven young siblings have all been placed with their natural fathers (4 different fathers). None of the kids have been seen in their homes since placement several months ago. Three of the kids were last seen in court six weeks ago, the others haven't been seen for five months (they are still wards). The extremely dangerous NM is supposedly gone, but the worker doesn't really know that. The worker was advised to go see all the kids in their homes.
- Kids removed because NM is extremely violent; each child is placed with a different relative. The worker has not seen any of them in their homes (nor ensured that NM was not living there) since last December. The worker states that she knows NM is seeing the kids (despite a no-contact objective), but feels that the relatives will protect them. However, she has no basis for believing that.
- A newborn, drug-exposed baby was released to NM despite no drug treatment and an active sexual abuse investigation of her boyfriend regarding her six year old daughter. There is no finding (S or U) on the sexual abuse allegation, and there is no documentation that the alleged perpetrator was ever interviewed about it. A safety assessment, a FRAP, and a case plan were completed during this time period, but none of them mention the sexual abuse investigation.
- A two year old blind child was returned to an abusive mother with no safety assessment or FRAP. The permanency worker feels the child is at risk and is unsure why he was returned to the mother.

- A 10 month old child was removed from NM at birth due to extensive drug usage. He was placed with two aunts (not at the same time). The child has not been seen since March 12. Both aunts' phones are disconnected and the child missed two scheduled DNA tests. It is unknown where the child is at this time (a ward). Worker advised to go to last known addresses of both aunts asap.
- Parents of an 8 month old and a 2 ½ year old are heavy users of methamphetamine. DFS opened a case to work with them, but the family disappeared.
- Three children were placed with a maternal aunt for the past nine months due to serious physical abuse from the NM. The aunt has been hostile to DFS and has openly stated that the children should be returned to NM despite the abuse. The aunt has never enrolled the seven year old in school. The worker said she is "leaning toward" reunification, even though nothing has been done to address NM's violence toward children. Worker was advised to staff the case with her supervisor and to interview the seven year old alone.
- NF admits hitting a three month old in the chest with his fist, bending the baby into a "U" shape, telling people the child needs to learn to behave, and telling many people that he will "give the child something to cry about". The child died and the medical staff determined it was due to Shaken Baby Syndrome. There was no arrest or conviction, and other children were left in the home. Despite DFS acknowledgement that NM was secretly meeting the NF, the case was closed. Two years later, a five year old received serious head injuries, allegedly from the same man, but the report was Unsubstantiated. Eight months later, a new baby was on life support from being shaken by this same man; he was arrested, but the children were not removed from the NM. Two months after that, the NM is reported for hitting her six year old; she admits it, but that is also Unsubstantiated. Six months later, the children are found home alone by a CASA worker, who tells the caseworker. However, neither the worker nor the CASA staff make a child neglect report, so no action is taken. One month later, on '06, a new baby is born. The DA wanted to charge the NM with children endangerment and lack of supervision; so did the caseworker. According to the worker, the supervisor did not want the mother charged. The new baby is still with the NM.
- NM has a history of repeated violent acts toward her children, who were removed by DFS. The worker recommended TPR, but the judge denied it and has ordered unsupervised visits. The worker feels these children are at dire risk (and the reviewer agrees), but she feels helpless to do anything about it.
- A three year old was ordered reunified by a judge, despite DFS's recommendation of TPR. Two older children have already been removed and adopted. The 3 y/o has not been seen by DFS in over two months.