



# Case Synopsis 2

## **INSTRUCTIONS:**

- *Read the case information provided below.*
- *Note any additional questions you would ask at the review.*
- *Discuss the four findings with your group to determine how you would answer each finding and why.*
- *List any additional findings and recommendations you would make in the case.*

**Date of review:** 4/24/10

**Date entered care:** 11/12/08

**Permanency Plan:** Adoption

**Date of Jurisdiction:** 1/4/09 (mo); 2/6/09 (fa)

**Concurrent Plan:** Implemented

**Date of Birth:** 9/14/06

**Basis for Jurisdiction:** Miles, age 3 ½, is within the jurisdiction of the court due to the following allegations: the mother, Carol Hall having low cognitive functioning which impairs her ability to parent; the mother having left the child with an inappropriate caregiver thereby placing the child at threat of harm; the mother having failed to provide acceptable and prescribed medical care for Miles; the biological father, Matthew Johnson, having failed to maintain a relationship with the child; and the father being incarcerated and is therefore unable to protect.

There is no legal father. Matthew Johnson is the alleged biological father.

**ICWA Status:** ICWA does not apply. The mother completed the ICWA form indicating no American Indian/ Alaskan Native Ancestry. The father completed the ICWA form indicating Cherokee Ancestry but all tribal responses were negative for enrollment.

**Case Summary:** According to the assessment summary, Ms. Hall left Miles with a mentally disabled individual and failed to make arrangements to resume care. Miles had been diagnosed as failure to thrive as an infant and Ms. Hall had not followed through with appointments at the feeding clinic. She was charged with Criminal Mistreatment and Child Endangerment on 11/11/09. DHS attempted to place Miles with the maternal grandfather at time of entry but this relative was unable to be certified; therefore, Miles was placed in non-relative foster care.

Matthew Johnson is an untreated and convicted sex offender. He is incarcerated until 2013 on charges of Sexual Abuse 1. He is not permitted to have contact with minors. He has no relationship with Miles.

### **Information Presented PRIOR to the Review:**

DHS staffed the case with Legal Consultants in 9/09 and received approval to implement the plan of adoption for Miles. The court ordered the plan of adoption at the Permanency Hearing on 11/2/09.

The mother's whereabouts are currently unknown. Mr. Johnson has no relationship with Miles and has indicated intentions to relinquish parental rights.

According to the DHS Substitute Care Case Plan (333), a maternal and paternal relative search has been completed. Local relatives as well as family members in Missouri were identified as possible resources. The paternal aunt and the maternal grandfather have been ruled out due to child welfare history. Miles has phone contact with his half-brother and his brother's father, Duane Davis. The foster providers are a willing permanent resource. Miles has been in the current home since 11/12/08.

### **Information Reported AT the Review:**

**Parties present: DHS, mother's attorney, foster parent, Mr. Davis (via phone); child's attorney.**

DHS reports an ICPC was requested in 12/09 for Duane Davis in Missouri. Mr. Davis is the father of Miles' older half-brother, Travis. The home study has not been completed but Miles is having phone contact with the family. DHS states it wasn't feasible to place Miles with his half-sibling in Missouri when the plan was return to parent. DHS caseworker reports DHS does not have funding available to assist Mr. Davis with travel expenses. A current caretaker staffing was held on 2/20/10 and the committee approved the foster parents for consideration along with Mr. Davis, should the ICPC home study be favorable for placement. The case will go to a Sensitive Adoption Committee if Mr. Davis' home study is approved. DHS has filed a TPR petition on Ms. Hall; however, she has not been served as her whereabouts are unknown. The mother's attorney states he has not had any contact with his client.

Miles had a child development assessment and was found to have low cognitive functioning but no services were recommended. He is participating in an early Head Start program. His immunizations are up to date and he had a well child check-up in 3/10. Phone conversations are difficult to facilitate with Mr. Davis and Travis in that Miles does not like to talk on the phone. Miles tends to act out afterward. The foster parents report Miles is part of their family and attached to their adoptive son. The child's attorney saw Miles in his foster home two weeks ago. She states Miles is doing well and is bonded to the foster parents and siblings in the home. She would like to see the adoption home study completed for Mr. Davis and states the ICPC was court ordered at the Permanency Hearing on 11/2/09.

Mr. Davis stated he is discouraged that the ICPC home study is taking so long. He would like Travis and Miles to have more interaction and to visit with one another. The boys try to talk on the phone once per week but it's a challenge due to their age. He was able to travel to Oregon over Christmas Break. He wanted to visit during Spring Break but couldn't afford it. When the boys were last together, he could see how much they enjoyed playing together.

**FINDINGS:**

DHS has made diligent efforts to place the child with a relative or a person who has a caregiver relationship.

DHS has ensured that appropriate services are in place to safeguard the child's safety, health and well being.

DHS made reasonable efforts in accordance with the case plan to place the child in a timely manner, and to complete the steps necessary to finalize the permanent placement, including an interstate placement if appropriate

**ADDITIONAL FINDINGS:**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**