

## Differential Response Participant Activity: Case Scenarios Worksheet

### Which Track Would You Assign?

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Differential Response allows the Department to respond differently to reports of child maltreatment, based on such factors as the type and severity of the alleged maltreatment. Alternative Response will typically be applied to reports involving neglect and those that do not allege serious or imminent harm. Traditional Response will be applied to reports of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and other situations presenting serious or imminent harm.

**Instructions:** Determine if Alternative Response (AR) or Traditional Response (TR) is most appropriate for each of the scenarios below. Be prepared to discuss your answers.

1. Information received from the caller indicates that she is the mother of Trisha, who is best friends with Sarah, age 15. Allegedly, Sarah had an argument with her step-father last night. Sarah told her friend that her father locked her out of the house and told her “never to come back.” Sarah is currently staying at Trisha’s house, but can only stay there for a few more nights. \_\_\_\_ AR or \_\_\_\_ TR
2. The call was received from law enforcement reporting that they had found a male child, age 3, unsupervised and wandering around the neighborhood two blocks from his home. The police returned the child to his mother’s care after a neighbor recognized the boy and told them where he lived. \_\_\_\_ AR or \_\_\_\_ TR
3. A family member called to report that their relative’s home is filthy and infested with cockroaches. The family member is concerned about his 7 year old niece who lives in the home. \_\_\_\_ AR or \_\_\_\_ TR
4. The school called to report that Benjamin, age 8, has a black eye and a large handprint on his left cheek. Benjamin reports that he made his mother mad last evening and she slapped him across his face. \_\_\_\_ AR or \_\_\_\_ TR
5. A school counselor called to report that Alicia, age 13, informed her that she has been molested by her father for the past two years. The sexual abuse has

involved intercourse on several occasions. \_\_\_\_ AR or \_\_\_\_ TR

6. Caller reports that her daughter's best friend, Kayla, age 11, is talking about her step-dad touching her private parts. According to the caller, when Kayla told her mother about the touching, her mother told her to "shut up and stop telling lies."  
\_\_\_\_ AR or \_\_\_\_ TR
  
7. A teacher called the hotline to report that Travis, age 8, mentioned that his uncle has been staying on their couch for a few days while he is in town visiting. The teacher is aware that this same uncle was convicted of molesting a 10 year old female relative five years ago. The teacher is concerned about the parents' ability to protect Travis, if they are allowing the uncle to stay at their house.  
\_\_\_\_ AR or \_\_\_\_ TR
  
8. Caller reports that her neighbor's house is "falling apart." She is concerned that the children living there, who range in age from 6 months to 6 years, are living in hazardous conditions. \_\_\_\_ AR or \_\_\_\_ TR
  
9. Caller reports that she just witnessed her neighbors yelling at one another in their driveway, and when their 11 year old son tried to intervene, the dad slapped him across the face and knocked him to the ground causing a concussion. The caller has seen similar incidences in the past and is worried about the boy. The caller indicates the dad is constantly putting the boy down and that she has observed bruises on him when he comes over to play with her son. \_\_\_\_ AR or \_\_\_\_ TR
  
10. A mother calls to report that her 16 year old daughter recently had sexual intercourse with her 17 year old boyfriend. The mother found this out by intercepting a note that her daughter had written to a girlfriend. When confronted, the daughter admitted to "going all the way." She told her mother that she is in love and wanted to lose her virginity to someone "special." The daughter reported no coercion or force. The mother is outraged and wants the Department to "throw the book" at the young man. \_\_\_\_ AR or \_\_\_\_ TR