

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASE SCENARIO: “ANN”**

The Abuse Hotline was called regarding allegations of neglect due to 10 year old Ann walking home alone in the dark. This report was investigated and closed with no indicators. Another report was called in within a month alleging that Ann had a bruise on her face and was hit by her mother’s boyfriend, Mark. Ann had also been initiating fights at school.

During the investigation, it was found that Ann has a 5 month old brother, who normally stays with the maternal grandmother. The investigation also revealed that Mark has a criminal history that included child abuse and domestic battery. The mother appeared to be fearful of Mark and stated that Mark is abusive towards her. The mother agreed to obtain a domestic violence injunction and to have no contact with Mark. She also agreed to leave the home and went to the maternal grandmother’s home with the children.

A few months later, another abuse report was called in due to Ann being admitted to the hospital for treatment of a cut on her head. Ann reported that Mark was hitting her mother and she was pushed out of the way causing her to hit her head on the wall. Susan refused to press charges against Mark for hitting her because she was afraid that he would hurt her when he got out of jail. Susan refused to go to a domestic violence shelter. Both children were removed and placed with the maternal grandmother. Mark was arrested for child abuse and domestic violence due to Susan also having bruises on her arms and face.

### **Questions for further discussion:**

- 1. What effects may the children face because of the family history and exposure to domestic violence?**
- 2. State three recommendations that you would make to the Court that would be in the best interest of the children.**
- 3. What would you like for the mother to demonstrate before recommending the children be returned to her care?**