

Case Worker Investigation/Case Notes

Case Name: Smith

Unit: Investigation

Child: Daisy

Parents: Betty & Joe Smith

Case worker: Susie Jones

Year: 2017

Date Entry

- 9/19 Received child abuse report alleging sexual and physical abuse of Daisy Smith by her parents, Betty & Joe Smith.
- 9/21 Removed Daisy Smith from the Smith home based on the child abuse report and our interviews with Daisy and her parents. Daisy made statements which led me to believe that she feared for her safety due to the sexual abuse. I spoke with Mr. and Mrs. Smith about the child abuse report and the investigation. The parents were unwilling to consent to a placement for Daisy's removal and have no relatives or other caregivers available as temporary placements. Consequently, I explained that a hearing would be held as soon as possible in court. I discussed the procedure for the removal and the investigation of the child abuse report alleging that Mr. and Mrs. Smith sexually abused their daughter, Daisy, and my role in this investigation. Mrs. Smith stated that the allegations were "just crazy." Mrs. Smith stated that she loved Daisy and would never do anything to hurt her, nor would Mr. Smith. I asked Mrs. Smith how she explained Daisy's knowledge of sexual matters, as alleged in the child abuse report. Mr. and Mrs. Smith did not respond. I then asked them if Daisy may have seen the Smiths having sex. Mrs. Smith replied adamantly that this could not have happened and that Daisy has never seen either of them naked as they are always very careful to lock their door when having sex. After observing the child, Daisy, and seeing the bruises on her legs, I asked Mrs. Smith to explain those bruises, as well as the bruises alleged to be on her buttocks. The bruises observed on her legs were in varying stages of healing. Mrs. Smith stated that Daisy must have fallen. She stated that Daisy bruises very easily and that she had even asked Daisy's doctor about it in the past. Mr. Smith had gone out to smoke, when he came back in I spoke to him separately. I asked him about the bruises. He told me that "there is nothing wrong with a parent disciplining their children" and that Mrs. Smith had used a 'switch' as punishment on Daisy a couple of days earlier. I noticed that there was a cut-off electric cord hanging from the bathroom door. It was unusual in that the plug had been cut off. When Ms. Smith re-entered the room I asked her what the cord was used for but she did not reply. I asked if I could take the cord with me and Mrs. Smith said "sure, we don't need it anymore anyway." I emphasized to both Mr. and Mrs. Smith what my job was and that I needed to protect Daisy. I also explained to them that Daisy

would remain in custody until the court felt that it was safe for her to return. Mrs. Smith got mad and became hostile. She refused to speak with me anymore without her attorney present. I then removed Daisy, who was very quiet, from the Smith home. When Daisy and I arrived at the CPS office, with the assistance of another female CPS worker, I took photographs of bruising on Daisy's legs and buttocks. I also took photos of her face for identification purposes. The Youth Court judge later gave verbal permission for Daisy to be taken into custody.

- 9/23 Shelter Hearing was held and Daisy was ordered to remain in custody and in her current placement at the Pleasant's foster home. Formal petition ordered.
- 9/23 Referral and appointment made to have Daisy examined by Dr. Willemena Whatits.
- 9/26 Transported Daisy to Dr. Willemena Whatits office for an examination. Daisy is a withdrawn child but appeared to respond well to Dr. Whatits. Transported Daisy back to foster home. Dr. Whatits indicated that she found evidence of sexual and physical abuse. See medical report.
- 9/29 Prosecutor filed an abuse and neglect petition alleging sexual and physical abuse.
- 9/30 Telephoned Mrs. Smith to schedule a visit at the agency. No answer.
- 10/4 Scheduled a visit for Daisy and Mr. and Mrs. Smith for 10/11.
- 10/11 Supervised visit at agency. Mrs. Smith gave Daisy a big hug and brought her a snack. Mr. Smith did not interact much with Daisy, merely asked me a lot of questions about the investigation and the court proceedings. I suggested having a meeting with them about these matters after the visit but they refused. Daisy was hesitant but appeared pleased to see her parents.
- 10/17 Transferred case to foster care unit.