

## <sup>1</sup>Consultation Note

**Case Name:** Janice Smith

**Supervisor:** Greg Percy

**Date:** 9/06/06

**Worker:** Marybeth Sorbol

**Link Number:** 1235479

### **Information received from: (List sources)**

Interview with worker, review of chart

### **Individuals Involved:**

**Father:** Franklin Smith, 29 years old

**Mother:** Janice Smith, 23 years old

**Children:** Franklin Smith, 17 months old

### **Reason for referral for consultation:**

Worker requests a consultation to explore specific steps to take with the family.

### **Status of the Case:**

Case is currently open in investigations. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> referral to DCF, although this is not the first physical assault of Ms. Smith by Mr. Smith.

Child is currently in the home with Ms. Smith. A residential stay away has been placed on Mr. Smith and he is only to have “minimal contact” with Ms. Smith their child.

### **Pattern of coercive control:**

Mr. Smith has engaged in a pattern of coercive control through physical violence, threatening, financial control, restricting Ms. Smith’s support network, and undermining Ms. Smith’s parenting of their child. This is evident by the following specific behaviors:

- Mr. Smith has physically assaulted Ms. Smith in public.
- Mr. Smith has demonstrated jealousy of Ms. Smith’s relationships as evident by his physically assaulting her when she greeted one of her friends.
- Mr. Smith has reported to DCF worker that arguments have occurred because he does not “like Ms. Smith to be out late.”

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<sup>1</sup> The names and identifying facts in this note have been changed to protect confidentiality.

- Mr. Smith has interfered with Ms. Smith's efforts at maintaining safety during an altercation as she attempted to call 911. Police reports indicate that he "pulled the phone out of the wall and broke the telephone."
- Mr. Smith has evoked physical control over Ms. Smith as he "pushed her, grabbed her, and threw her to the ground...leaving red marks on her wrists and a welt on her leg."
- Mr. Smith has undermined Ms. Smith's parenting by insulting her parenting and calling her a "bad mother."
- Mr. Smith's pattern of control has resulted in Ms. Smith's report of feeling fearful of her husband.

**Survivor's strengths:**

Despite Mr. Smith's pattern of coercive control, Ms. Smith has made efforts at maintaining the safety and well-being of the couple's child. This is evident by the following specific behaviors:

- Ms. Smith has secured employment.
- Ms. Smith has called the police during episodes of threat and/or violence and is open to assistance.
- Ms. Smith displays initiative and motivation as she sought out safe housing following the most recent assault by Mr. Smith.
- Ms. Smith has obtained suitable and safe child care for their child.
- Ms. Smith has cooperated with the residential stay away court order.
- Ms. Smith has cooperated with DCF.
- DCF does not report any concerns for Ms. Smith's parenting at this time.
- The child appears to be developing along a normal trajectory, thus it is reasonable to assume that this is due in part to the consistent nurturing and responsive caretaking of Ms. Smith.

**Adverse impact of batter's behavior on each child/family functioning:**

Mr. Smith's pattern of coercive control has adversely impacted the family functioning in the following ways:

- Mr. Smith's assaultive behaviors have compromised the safety of the home, and led to police involvement.
- This has led to a disruption in the home and required Ms. Smith to relocate with their child. It is reasonable to assume that this relocation has required some degree of adjustment for both Ms. Smith and their child.
- Further adjustment has been required of Ms. Smith as she has recently obtained employment and sought suitable childcare for their child.
- The separation from Mr. Smith has created additional financial stressors for Ms. Smith and their child.

- Additionally, the separation from Mr. Smith has the potential to interfere with a healthy father-child relationship.

**Factors or other issues impacting risk/vulnerability:**

Ms. Smith has few supports. She is a young, single parent.

**Recommendation:**

Based on the information provided in today's consultation, the following recommendations are offered:

- Worker will follow up with Peter Weston, Family Relations Officer to determine an appropriate course of treatment for Mr. Smith and to mandate cooperation with DCF as a court order.
- If possible, a 26-week domestic violence treatment program is recommended to increase Mr. Smith's awareness of the impact of his behavior and to increase empathy for his family.
- It is recommended that the worker explore with Mr. Smith the impact of his behavior on the family and his responsibility as a parent.
  - What do you feel the impact of you pushing, shoving, and throwing your wife to the ground is on her?
  - Who is parenting your child when you are assaulting your wife?
  - What kind of parent do you want to be to your child?
  - How are you working towards that parenting goal with your current display of behaviors?
- Worker will explore with Ms. Smith what supports she feels she may need in order to continue with her current progress.
- Worker will explore with Ms. Smith recommendations for supportive treatment to address possible impaired self-esteem:
  - Are you able to make decisions you feel good about?
  - Are you able to let others know how you feel about a particular topic, regardless of their reactions?
  - What are the red flags you notice in relationship/relationship patterns to know that it is becoming controlling?
  - What are your strengths?
  - How are you building on these strengths, i.e., effective parenting, obtaining employment, etc, to move forward?
  - What are your goals for the future? Hopes for the future?
- Worker will explore with Ms. Smith her plan for safety.
  - What do you imagine you may need to be prepared for with Mr. Smith?
  - How will he respond to you moving forward?
  - What will you need to help you to feel safe?
  - Do you have a plan for when/if he tries to contact you?
  - Do you feel safe to talk to others if you are threatened by him?

- Do you have access to a phone? How do you feel about calling the police in the future?

**Follow up plan:**

Case is to be transferred to treatment. Worker will inform new worker of this consult. Consultant will be available for future consults on this case.