

## MODULE 5 - VIGNETTE

Mother's Name: **Irene**                      Father's Name: unknown  
Child's Name, Gender and Age: **Daniel, M-7**  
Child/Family Ethnicity: Caucasian

Family Description: Irene, age 26, has experienced serious alcohol and other drug addictions as an adolescent and young mother, often leaving her son, Daniel, (7), in the care of others who allegedly ignored, neglected, and/or abused him. It is suspected that she used alcohol and/or other drugs during pregnancy. She is unsure who is Daniel's father, naming no one on his birth certificate. By age five (5), Daniel had received limited well baby care and no immunizations, and was in the daily care of a 12-year old female who was truant from school and cared for several young siblings and cousins. At that time Daniel was removed from his mother's custody and placed in foster care.

Presenting Issues: Irene is fighting termination of parental rights, and her lawyer has helped extend the normal timeline out longer than expected. She has entered four treatment programs for addiction, completing two of them successfully and walking away from two others. Reports provided by those programs show a mixture of compliance with and resistance to treatment. She has been diagnosed with addictions to alcohol and other drugs, as well as with depression and post traumatic stress disorder. She is currently residing in a halfway house that is advocating for her reunification with Daniel, and she works daily in a supervised setting and with good reviews from her supervisors. She has reported having a religious conversion experience in the halfway house and is regularly attending worship and bible study at a local church. She appears to benefit from some services and not from others.

Daniel is currently placed in his fourth foster home, where his foster parents appear strongly committed to providing Daniel with a safe, supportive home, and remain confident that they can eventually help him get his behaviors under better control. He has been in custody for 20 months. He is often withdrawn and anxious, with occasional outbursts that last from several hours to several days, during which he does not rest or eat and is inconsolable. When Daniel was removed from Irene's care, he began the series of foster placements, each of which lasted about 6 months and resulted in each family's request that he be removed, always due to his out-of-control behaviors. Daniel has been described by a therapist as a highly anxious child with serious attachment difficulties.

Treatment/Service/Support History: Irene has acknowledged substance use disorders and has entered treatment four times, successfully completing two and currently succeeding in a halfway house. Several treating professionals have suggested that she also had mental disorders, including depression and post traumatic stress disorder (a result of parental and spousal abuse). She has never established long-term treatment relationships, but is very comfortable with the treatment approaches used in residential facilities, usually responding well. She describes her current stay in the half-way house as positive and "the best place for me right now." Daniel has never been hospitalized but has been in a series of failed foster placements. His case manager believes that, because he was mostly withdrawn, each foster family was able to care for him for a number of months before becoming overwhelmed, either by one serious incident or a culmination of many difficult incidents.