

SUBSTANCE ABUSE FACT PATTERNS

1. DFCS gets a call from parent for help with finding more suitable housing for herself and children. As part of their CPS investigation, DFCS comes out to the home and house is very messy/dangerous for children. During the CPS investigation and assessment of the needs of the family, the mother admits daily marijuana use. Children are subsequently removed and by the time the 72-hour preliminary protective hearing is held, the mother has cleaned the house and there are no longer any dangerous hazards in the home. However, DFCS does not want to return to the children at the PPH because they are still concerned about marijuana use.
2. Police find a 3 year old child in the parking lot of an apartment complex. When the police discover which home the child resided in, the parents of the child are both in the home asleep. Upon the parents waking up, the parents are both disheveled and there are prescription pill bottles throughout the house. The police call DFCS and reports to them that the parents appeared to be high and “out of it.” The parents have CPS history of substance abuse and child wandering outside alone not being supervised.
3. Mother has baby at Grady. Both child and mother are tested upon the child’s birth and both mother and baby test positive for cocaine. This is the mother’s first child, so no previous history with DFCS. While being questioned by the hospital social worker, the mother admits that she used throughout her pregnancy.