

Background – Mark Case

Participants:

Mom: 22 years old

Dad: 24 years old

Maternal Great Grandmother: 58 years old

Mark: 4 years old

Allegation Narrative:

Mark tested positive for cocaine. It is unknown how Mark got cocaine in his system. Mom and child live with the maternal grandmother. On 011/05/13, Mark was playing at home outside and collapsed. He also suffered what appeared to be a seizure. Mark was taken to the hospital and then released. On 11/06/13, Mark's MGGM asked her grandson's pediatrician to administer a urine test and on 11/08/13, Mark's urine test came back positive for Cocaine. Both the MGG and Mom were able to give a full accounting of the activities and whereabouts of her child on the day that he collapsed. Mark was not able to provide an explanation for why he collapsed and denied eating anything that might have resembled cocaine as described to him.

Initial Investigation/Assessment Information:

The MGG's female friend was visiting when the child collapsed. Both the MGGM and Mom were present with the friend. According to the report, the child had been exposed to the following people and places on the day he collapsed: the mother, the MGG and her friend, and the daycare center.

Mark attends daycare and it is unknown if staff members are using drugs at the facility. The mother reported giving Mark the drugs Singular, Zytrec and Albuterol the same day for allergies and asthma. Medical staff reported that these medications do not contain any form of cocaine in them.

The father's whereabouts are currently unknown. It is known that he has an extensive criminal history. The mom and MGG have no criminal histories. There are no prior abuse or neglect reports regarding Mark. There are several prior reports regarding the mother who is listed as a neglect victim (lack of supervision) from the time she was a child. A law enforcement check reported that mom has been arrested 11 months ago for driving under the influence of substances, but the case was never brought to trial.

Mom and MGG strongly deny using drugs. The mother stated that she is under a lot of stress because of this situation. She stated that she went through this as a child because her own mother had a drug history and she had been placed with her grandmother. Mom's own mother is now deceased. Mom states that she or the MGG are always home with the child. Mom admitted, upon further questioning, that she sometimes uses pills to help control her weight, but absolutely never anything else, including cocaine. To prevent her child's placement in foster care, mom volunteered to temporarily move out of the house and stay with her best friend.

Mom reports that her child is up to date with all immunizations and checkups. The house was reasonably well kept. Child toys were present and there were no visible signs that the child was not cared for. Mark appeared shy to me but was receptive and engaged with his mom and MGG. His developmental milestones appeared to be age appropriate. Both mom and MGG continuously stated that they would never allow Mark to be harmed and they cannot explain how Mark was able to ingest cocaine. Mom stated that Mark is the "king of the house" and the MGG agreed.

The day care center was reached by phone and they have no knowledge of any incident occurring regarding Mark and they are confident that drugs could not have been found or consumed by the child while under day care supervision. A day care inspector is planning to assess the safety of the day care center in the next few days.