

Lavender Case Study Materials

OCS Case File

Last Name of Case:		Lavender Bass			
Legal Number(s):		1-30-275645-3			
Child(ren)'s Name	DOB	Age	Ethn	Sex	Current Location
Lavender Bass	October 8	6 years	Unknown	F	Foster Placement Bonnie Matthews

Current Caretaker(s)	Address	Phone
Foster Parent: Bonnie Matthews	52 Greylock Rd.	555-5874

Attorneys for:		
Mother	Sara Johnson	555-6498
Father	Fred Thompson	555-6644
OCS	Lisa Kelly	555-6298

Case History

Three weeks ago: Child, Lavender Bass, age 6, came into care following a complaint made by her paternal grandmother. On her tip, the OCS investigator located the mother and child behind the bar where mother is employed. Mother, Susan Mailer, was passed out drunk sleeping in her parked car. Lavender was sitting in the shade of a nearby tree waiting for her mom to wake up and take her home. The police were called and mother arrested for public drunkenness.

Susan and Lavender reside with Susan's mother, Rebecca Mailer; her sister, Leah Mailer; and Leah's children. Because no one in the home was available the day of the arrest, Lavender was placed in foster care with Bonnie Mathews.

The OCS investigator found that Susan Mailer's criminal record reflected a tendency toward violence; she'd been in a couple of physical fights in the bar where she's employed. She's also been arrested for dealing marijuana and was once caught huffing inhalants when police busted a party.

Your first interview with OCS worker:

You arrange to meet with Lisa Kelly, the OCS worker, to discuss this case and review the file. She's a cheerful young woman, new to the agency and full of enthusiasm for her task—saving the world from itself. Lisa shows you the paperwork for the Lavender Bass case. Lavender's paternal grandmother made the initial report, complaining that the child's mother wasn't looking after her and tipping OCS about where to find them. Paternal grandmother adamantly stated that she does not want to be involved in the case, "so please don't call her." You take her number down anyway. The mother was arrested and kept in jail overnight. Lavender and her mother live with Rebecca Mailer, maternal grandmother; Leah Mailer, maternal aunt; and Leah's children. The OCS investigator substantiated the case, took Lavender into care and gave the case to Lisa, who hasn't met the mother yet.

Court History

You are preparing for the combined Adjudication/Disposition Hearing.

Who do you want to interview first?

