Character Profile: Joanna Perez

Demographics and Background

- You speak little to no English. Without an interpreter present you can convey your thoughts by whispering to Martin or pointing at Caleb's hand and saying, "No. Darryl." You may also alert hospital staff to your need for an interpreter by saying, "En español, por favor."
- You are Caleb Thomas' paternal grandmother and Martin Perez's mother.
- Your grandson lives with his mother, Maria Thomas, and her boyfriend, Darryl Hughes.
- Due to a court order, Martin is not allowed unsupervised visitations with Caleb at this time.
- You do not have concerns about Martin's parenting, and believe Maria made up lies about Martin in order to obtain custody.
- Your and Martin's last visit with Caleb was 10 days ago. At this time, you did not observe any visible injuries on Caleb.

Incident Information

- Your son, Martin, advised you that Darryl's mother, Patricia Hughes, called him to say that Caleb had a bad injury to his hand and needed to see a doctor.
- You and Martin drove to Maria Thomas' home where you found Caleb in the care of Maria's boyfriend, Darryl Hughes. After viewing the injury to Caleb's hand, you and Martin brought him to the emergency room.
- While in the hospital ER you are desperately trying to convey your concerns to the nurse and are frustrated by the language barrier and your son's continuous attempts to quiet you.

Character Development Tips

- You are very worried about Caleb and concerned about how the injury occurred.
- You find it hard to believe Caleb caused the injury to himself, though you cannot imagine how it could have occurred. Despite your dislike of Maria, you don't believe she could have hurt Caleb.
- You are concerned how the hospital staff will treat your son when they find out he does not have custody of his son, and that they may jump to conclusions.
- You do not want the staff to suspect that Martin could have harmed Caleb, and you know he has not since you have been supervising every visit.
- You know Martin is embarrassed by his past struggles and want to preserve his privacy and dignity.
- You would love for both Caleb and his baby sister to live with you, as you strongly value family and being a grandmother is extremely important to you. You do not want Caleb and his sister to be separated.
- You have a general distrust and fear of governmental systems.

- You are frustrated by your inability to express what you believe is pertinent information about the situation.
- You rely on your son and the interpreter to communicate.

*Your information should be conveyed through your son or the interpreter by whispering what you want to say to them.

Joanna Perez Simulation Module #1 (What has happened so far)

- Martin told you that Patricia called him and stated that Caleb needed medical attention.
- Your son Martin and you went to the home where Caleb resides with his mother Maria, her boyfriend Darryl and their new baby.
- You and your son brought Caleb to the ER upon seeing his injury.
- Martin told you that Darryl said Caleb was playing fireman, and was trying to climb on a floor lamp to slide down it and pulled the lamp over on himself.
- The ER nurse pointed out that Caleb has other injuries and bruises and has asked your son, Martin, for explanations, of which he has none.
- You and Martin last had Caleb for a visit 10 days ago, and he had no injuries then.
- You have concerns and have been trying to tell the nurse. However, with your limited English you are frustrated as you are not sure if your son is conveying your concerns effectively.

In the next Module, the hospital interpreter may be activated. They will convey all of your information to the others as you relate your concerns. This will be done through a series of hushed or whispered exchanges between you and the interpreter. (Your facilitator will give specific direction and support around how this will be accomplished.)

Joanna Perez Module #2 Location is the ER at a local hospital

Nurse Bailey introduces Dr. Kramer and Mx. Jackson, the social worker.

If the interpreter is activated, you immediately pull them aside and tell them the following things: (Remember, you speak in whispers so that the other participants cannot hear what you are trying to convey through the interpreter.)

- You last had Caleb in your care 10 days ago. He had no marks or bruises as you bathed him and helped him dress both days he was with you.
- "Others" have told you that Darryl is abusive to Maria.
- "Others" have seen Darryl treat Caleb harshly.
- "Others" have said that Darryl's mother does not believe that he should be taking care of his own child.
- Maria is never home.
- Caleb was almost potty trained until Darryl moved into Maria's house.

You listen to interpreter Gonzales relay information about Dr. Kramer's concerns about the injuries to Caleb and learn that CPS and law enforcement have been called. You are visibly upset by this and try to get your son, Martin, to leave the room with you.

Joanna Perez Module #3

Maria, Caleb's mother, and her best friend, Wendy, will arrive at the hospital. Seeing Wendy prompts you to want to tell the interpreter more. After the initial interaction between Caleb, Maria and Wendy, you pull the interpreter aside and tell her the following: (Remember, you speak in whispers so that the other participants cannot hear what you are trying to convey through the interpreter.)

- Wendy used to babysit for Caleb.
- Wendy does not like Darryl.
- Wendy will tell them what the "others" are saying about what goes on in Maria and Darryl's house.

Joanna Perez Module #4

After being introduced to CPS and law enforcement, you and your son interact and play with Caleb while law enforcement and CPS speak with Maria.

You respond as you see fit when the authority figures share their discharge plan, depending on their decision. Use the interpreter as needed.

Notes