

Jun. 22. 2012 4:43PM

No. 0585 P. 2



Child Name: Mario Wizel
FSFN: 2012-130103
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UM Child Protection Team
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Specialized Interview

Child's Name: Mario Wizel and Karen Wizel
DOB: 08/20/02 09/06/05
Date of Report: 06/12/12
FSFN: 2012-130103
Referred by: DCF CPI Teresa Hernandez

Reason for Referral:

On 06/12/12 DCF CPI Theresa Hernandez contacted CPT to refer this case. According to the allegations (FSFN#: 2012-130103), "Around two or three weeks ago, Mario was slapped and spanked by his father, his uncle and his grandfather. The father is the one that slapped him. The father slapped him in the face. Mario had a red mark on his face from being slapped. The grandfather spanks Karen on her bottom when she misbehaves; however, there are no known injuries to her. In October, the uncle tossed Mario in the lake. He did this because Mario took off an eye of a plastic cow and he tossed it into the lake. The uncle threw him into the lake to get the eye. Mario was crying because there was algae in the lake. The stepmother has called the children 'Malditos.'" An additional report alleges, "On 06/05/2012, the father called Mario on the cell phone and said some demonic spirits would come and kill them today (06/05/2012) or tomorrow (06/06/2012)."

According to the CPI, the children were not observed with any injuries indicative of abuse. The family is going through custody issues. The CPI stated the children are "petrified" of the father because he hits them. Karen said that the stepmother curses at them. Mario said his father hit him in the face three times and he sustained a red mark to his face about a month ago. The children said that the father spanks them with his hand or whatever he can grab and hits them in the face. The father told Karen that the spirits are going to "kill" them all tomorrow. The CPI stated Karen was "hysterical." The CPI has not been able to interview the father because he's "busy" doing his residency at Baptist Hospital. This case was staffed with CPT Clinical Director Susan K. Dandes, PhD.

On 6/7/12 CPI contacted CPT with more information. CPI stated the family went to family court on August 24. The father filed a motion because he wanted custody of the children. The children spend one week with the father and another week with the mother. The father denied the allegations and told the CPI that he doesn't hit the children. He indicated he reads the bible to the children and explains to them the conflict between God and the devil. The stepmother denied cursing at the children. The CPI has concerns because Mario sleeps with a knife under his bed as he is afraid of the father. This case was re-staffed with

EXHIBIT "A"

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CPT Clinical Director Susan K. Dandes, PhD. The children ONLY are scheduled for a specialized interview at CPT South office on 6/8/12.

DCF History/Prior Reports:

This family has had prior history with the Department of Children and Families. There is a report dated on 04/06/11 (FSFN# 2011-078791). According to the allegations, the mother is in court now requesting an injunction against the father. The domestic violence took place on 09/17/09 when the parents separated. The father has been stalking the mother. There was a lot of psychological and sexual abuse towards the mother. This case was closed with no findings. There is a report dated on 08/25/11 (FSFN# 2011-190766). According to the allegations, the father has been beating the mother from 2003-2009. The father has been threatening to kill the mother. There are also concerns that the father is hitting Mario with a belt. This case was closed with no findings.

Specialized Interview with Mario Wizel (child):

Melyssa Lopez, Case Coordinator, conducted a specialized interview with the child, Mario, at the CPT South office on 06/08/12. The purpose of this interview was to further assess the physical abuse and mental injury allegations, family dynamics, and risk in the home. Mario is a 9-year-old Hispanic male who was brought to this appointment by DCF CPI Teresa Hernandez. Mario was also accompanied to this appointment by his sister, Karen. Mario reported that he resides with his mother, Ms. Karen Wizel, and his two siblings (Karen Wizel, 6, and Joshua, 9 months old). Mario reported that he and his sister attend Winston Park Elementary School. Mario reported that he is going into the 4th grade. Mario explained that his sister is going into the 1st grade. Mario reported that his mother and his father are no longer together. Mario reported that his father resides with his girlfriend, Georgina, and his baby sister (9 months old). Mario did not know the name of his baby sister. Mario reported that his mother works but did not know where she works. Mario reported that his father is a doctor and his father's girlfriend is unemployed at this time.

Mario reported that no one in his mother or father's home uses illegal drugs, drinks alcohol excessively or has a criminal record. When asked if he ever witnessed domestic violence between his parents, Mario said, "Yes, my dad. He has hit my mom. He pointed my mom with a gun. Stuff like that." When asked if anyone told him what to say at CPT, Mario replied, "Yesterday, my dad told me not to lie, but I'm not lying." When asked if he ever witnessed any marks on his mom, Mario replied, "Yes. I saw purple/green bruises, red hand prints on her body and bumps on her head, too." When asked if his mother ever called the police, Mario replied, "I think once." When asked what would cause the fighting between his parents in the past, Mario was not sure.

When asked how his father disciplines him, Mario said, "He hits me and puts me in time out." When asked how his father hits him, Mario said, "With his hand." When asked where his father hits him on his body, Mario said, "Everywhere." When asked if his

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father hits him on the face, Mario replied, "Yes." When asked if his father hits him with a belt, Mario replied, "Yes, but not anymore." When asked if he is afraid of his father, Mario reported that he was and said, "Because he is mean and bad. He hits us." When asked how his father disciplines his sister, Mario was not sure.

When asked if any of his relatives have ever mistreated him, Mario stated, "Once my uncle threw me in the river." When asked why, Mario reported, "My (paternal) grandparents have these cows (plastic) on the back house. The cows are very old and the eyes fell off. I didn't do it. He got mad at me and threw me in the river." When asked if his grandparents ever hit him, Mario said, "My grandpa, with a whip." When asked to describe the whip, Mario explained that the "whip" his grandfather hit him with is actually a belt. When asked where his grandfather hit him, Mario reported on his buttocks. When asked if he is afraid of his grandfather, Mario said, "All of my dad's relatives, besides my cousin." When asked why, Mario reported that they are mean to him. When asked how his father's girlfriend disciplines him and his sister, Mario said, "She screams at me bad words." When asked if the father's girlfriend hit the kids, Mario replied, "No." When asked what kinds of words his father's girlfriend calls the kids, Marion replied, "Son of a bitch and mother fucker." When asked if his father has ever threatened to kill him, Mario said, "Yes, he tells me that spirits are going to kill us." When asked why he thinks his father says this to him, Mario said, "To scare us."

When asked if he sleeps with a knife under his bed, Mario said, "Yes. I get it from the kitchen. I put it under the bed because I get scared." When asked if he is allowed to play with knives, Mario said, "No." When asked what he is afraid of, Mario reported he is afraid of the things his father says to him about the sprits.

Specialized Interview with Karen Wizel (child):

Melyssa Lopez, Case Coordinator, conducted a specialized interview with the child, Karen, at the CPT South office on 06/06/12. The purpose of this interview was to further assess the physical abuse and mental injury allegations, family dynamics, and risk in the home. Karen is a 6-year-old Hispanic female who was brought to this appointment by DCF CPI Teresa Hernandez. Karen was also accompanied to this appointment by her brother, Mario. Karen resides with her mother, Karen Wizel, and her two brothers (Mario Wizel, 9, and Joshua Jimenez, 9 months old). Karen reported that her father and her mother are no longer together and her father lives in another location with his paramour. Karen reported, "I'm with my mom for seven days and then I'm with my dad for seven days." When asked who lives in her father's home, Karen reported her father, Mr. Mario Jimenez, her father's girlfriend, Georgina, and baby sister (9 months old). Karen did not know the name of her baby sister. When asked if her parents are employed, Karen reported that her father is a doctor and her mother "helps people." When asked if her father's girlfriend works, Karen said, "No, because she has a lot of stuff to do in the house." Karen was not sure what school she attends but stated that she is going into the 1st grade.

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When asked if she has ever witnessed her mom and dad hitting each other when they were together, Karen stated, "My dad did. He left my mom real red right here (pointing to her arm). He did it hard." When asked if she saw her father hit her mother, Karen said, "Yes, he hit her really hard with his hand. That was the only time I saw that. He also put a gun right here." Karen pointed to her forehead to point to the place the father aimed the gun at her mother. When asked if she witnessed the gun incident, Karen replied, "No, my brother sees (saw) it." When asked if she is afraid of her father, Karen reported, "Yes." When asked why she is afraid of her father, Karen reported, "One day he was talking on the phone and he was saying that the devil was going to kill everyone. Those bad angels will come kill us." When asked why her father said these things to her, Karen reported, "I don't know." When asked if she is afraid of her mom, Karen denied this.

When asked how her father disciplines them, Karen said, "He takes all our toys. He gets us in trouble. He hits my brother." When asked how her father hits her brother, Karen replied, "He throw him on the bed and pushed him. One day he pushed him and hurt him right here." Karen pointed to the back of her head. Karen reported that her father hits her brother with an open hand. When asked if she ever witnessed her father slapping her brother on the face, Karen said, "No, you're going to have to ask my brother about that." When asked if her father hits her, Karen replied, "He punished me hard." When asked how her father punishes her, Karen replied, "He puts me in my room. He puts us in the room for five or ten minutes." When asked how her father's girlfriend disciplines her and her brother, Karen replied, "She says bad words to us. One day she called us stupid. She called me a bitch and a piece of crap." Karen denied that her father's girlfriend has ever hit her or her brother. When asked how her mother disciplines her, Karen replied, "I don't do stuff wrong. She don't discipline me." When asked how her mother disciplines her brother, Karen reported that her mother does not discipline her or her brother.

When asked if any of her relatives ever hit her or her brother, Karen stated, "Yes, my grandpa. My grandpa grabbed me right here hard and made a red mark." When asked if her grandfather spanked her, Karen said, "Yes, to my brother and me." When asked what her grandfather hit her and her brother with, Karen replied, "A belt." When asked where her grandfather hit her and her brother, Karen said, "Butt and leg." When asked if she is afraid of her grandfather, Karen nodded her head yes and said, "Hits me very hard." When asked if she ever saw anyone throw her brother into a lake, Karen replied, "My tio (uncle) threw my brother in the lake. There were fishes and crocodiles and he threw him in." When asked why her tio (uncle) threw her brother in the lake, Karen said, "He threw him very long away to the river." When asked why, Karen said, "He thought my brother took the eyes from the goat off but he didn't. It was the air that took them away." When asked if her brother has a knife under his bed, Karen replied, "No, I've never seen that."

Risk Factors:

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Based on the specialized interviews of both children and the information provided to CPT by the DCF CPI, the identified risk factors are:

- Both kids reported that the father made threatening comments to them about spirits coming to kill them.
- Mario reported that his father hits him all over his body with his open hands and has targeted his face in the past.
- Both children reported that they are afraid of their father.
- Mario reported that his uncle threw him in the lake as a means of punishment for allegedly breaking something on his grandparents' porch.
- Both children reported witnessing domestic violence between their biological parents in the past.
- Both children reported that their father's girlfriend curses at them and calls them foul names.
- Mario reported that he sleeps with a knife under his bed because of the statements his father makes about the spirits coming to kill him.

Family Strengths:

Based on the specialized interviews of both children and the information provided to CPT by the DCF CPI, the identified family strengths are:

- The father is employed.
- The mother is employed.
- The children seem to have a healthy bond with one another.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Mario reported that he sleeps with a knife under his bed due to the threatening comments his father makes about spirits coming to kill the kids. Mario reported that his father hits him all over his body with an open hand and has targeted his face in the past as a form of punishment. Mario reported that he is afraid of his father because he hits him and does not treat him nicely. Mario also reported that his paternal uncle did throw him in the lake as punishment because he thought he broke a plastic cow on his grandparent's porch. Mario also reported that his grandfather hits him with a belt when he does something wrong. Mario stated that he does not feel safe when he is in his father's care.

Karen reported that she is afraid of her father because he tells her that dark angels are going to kill her and her brother. Karen reported that her father hits her brother and that the father's girlfriend curses at the children when they do something wrong. Karen reported witnessing domestic violence between her parents in the past. Karen explained that her father hit her mother leaving a red mark on her. Karen reported that her grandfather also hits her with the belt and she does not feel safe when she is around him.

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CPT recommends that DCF should refer the children for intensive therapeutic intervention to process their abuse histories by their father, including the witnessing of domestic violence. Due to the children's expressed fear of their father, CPT recommends that visitation occur only under closely supervised conditions and at the discretion of the children's treating therapist. CPT further recommends that the father be court-ordered to undergo a full psychological evaluation to assess his personality functioning and treatment needs.

Prepared by: 
Melyssa Lopez, Case Coordinator

Date: 06/22/12