

Scenario #1

Kitty West and her three boys, ages 7, 10, and 14, have been living in the Lucky 7 Motel for several weeks. The Lucky 7 is across the street from Hal's garage, and Hal, the owner, has observed the boys outside the motel on several occasions when school is in session. The boys have come to his business a few times and asked for food. They look very thin and are not dressed for the cold front that has recently come through. Other business owners in the area have started to talk with Hal about the situation. Hal looked out last Friday night and saw the boys standing outside the hotel room during a very cold storm and invited them into his shop, but they wouldn't come in.

Hal has noticed that lots of men go in and out of Kitty's motel room.

Hal decided to contact the school and report the young boys as truant.

Questions

1. What should the school district do in this case?
2. Is there anyone the district can call in to assist with the situation?

Scenario #2

Mr. and Mrs. Chatsworth Longfellow both work at the local community college in Zinger and have a combined income of about \$140,000. They bought an older home about three years ago for a very inexpensive price and fixed it up nicely so they and their two children would be comfortable.

The Longfellows learned a few months ago that a new high-tech factory was coming to Zinger, forcing housing values to skyrocket, so they sold their home for about three times what they paid for it. They used some of the profit to pay off debts and the rest to buy a brand new 28-foot camp trailer and a “dualie” truck. They put the trailer on some land they bought and promptly declared themselves homeless because they are living in a travel trailer, which would entitle their two children, Amy, 11, and Henry, 15, to free lunch.

Questions

1. Should Zinger ISD consider the Longfellows homeless?
2. What is the district required to do in this situation?

Scenario #3

Julio Gonzalez, 16, recently came to Metropolis from Honduras because both of his parents, who were Honduran citizens, were killed in an accident, and Julio had no one who would care for him in Honduras. He is staying with his aunt and uncle, Graci and Hector Calderon. None of the family members have legal residence in the U.S.

Julio was a good student in Honduras and very much wants to attend Metropolis ISD. Mr. and Mrs. Calderon are afraid to take him to the school to register, but a neighbor is encouraging Julio to go to the school and find out what his rights are.

Questions

1. Is Julio homeless?
2. What is the district required to do in order to remain in compliance with Federal and State statutes?
3. What could the district do to move from compliance to commitment?

Scenario #4

LaKeisha Pepper, 17, started working part-time at a fast-food restaurant six months ago through a work program at Zinger ISD. She and her manager, Dirk Lama, became romantically involved—it was love at first sight!

LaKeisha's mom, a psychiatrist, believed that this was just a passing phase and didn't get too concerned until LaKeisha began staying away from home for longer and longer periods of time. LaKeisha and Dr. Pepper started to get into strong arguments over LaKeisha's relationship with Dirk. Finally LaKeisha got very disgusted with her mother's intolerance and threats and moved in with Dirk, who resides in Metropolis ISD.

LaKeisha's mom contacted the police, but because of LaKeisha's age, and because there was no sign of physical sign of abuse or neglect, the police would not get involved.

LaKeisha decided it would be best if she started her final year of school in Metropolis ISD, so she attempted to enroll herself there, in the high school that is located in the attendance zone where Dirk lives—about 3.5 miles from his house. Metropolis ISD reluctantly enrolled LaKeisha even though her mother threatened a lawsuit if the district went ahead and enrolled her. Dr. Pepper also objected when she found that MISD considers LaKeisha homeless.

Questions

1. Did the district take the appropriate action regarding LaKeisha's enrollment in MISD?
2. Is the district required to label LaKeisha "homeless?" Is she homeless?
3. What could the district do to move from compliance to commitment?

Scenario #5

Elsie Johnson and her five children left their home because of domestic violence in October of last year. She and the children moved into a shelter for thirty days, then they had to leave because their time was up. Elsie tried to get Section 8 housing, but a major natural disaster had occurred and there was nothing available, so she moved in with her mother, Zelda Jeffrey. Both Elsie and Zelda lived in Metropolis ISD; Zelda's home was located within a block of the boundary of Zinger ISD.

Mrs. Jeffrey's home was not large enough for Elsie and all five children, so Elsie's sister, who lived in Zinger ISD, said she would take the two oldest children to live with her, and then enrolled the two oldest children in Zinger ISD. Elsie learned from the liaison that her children could attend Zinger, so although she was residing in Metropolis ISD, she believed it would be best if all of her children were in the same district, so she enrolled the other three in Zinger ISD as well.

It is now August of the next year and Elsie's situation has not changed—she is still with her mother, where she and her three children live together in one bedroom of Zelda's home. Elsie has a full-time job where she makes just a little less than \$7.00 an hour—hardly enough to support herself and five children in a separate household. She is still on the waiting list for Section 8 housing.

Elsie and the three children have just shown up to register at the elementary school in Zinger ISD where they attended last year.

Questions

1. Must Zinger ISD enroll the children?
2. If yes to Question 1, what are the requirements for free lunch and transportation?

Scenario #6

Austin Powers, the new homeless liaison for Zinger ISD, has just encountered his first big challenge as liaison. He is helping enroll the three Tupelo children, ages 6, 10, and 15, into their schools. Mrs. Tupelo told Mr. Powers that both she and her husband got laid off from the factory where they worked, where each of them was making about \$8.25 an hour. They were behind in their bills and had no money, so they had to move in with Mr. Tupelo's brother, an assistant manager of a large chain store, who resides in Zinger ISD.

The community they left is about 35 miles away.

Mrs. Tupelo had heard of the McKinney-Vento Act from a friend who had been in a similar situation a few years ago. At that time, her friend's children had qualified for the free lunch, and Mrs. Tupelo was hoping that her children could get free lunch until the family gets back on its feet.

Mr. Powers agreed that the Tupelo family was indeed homeless and eligible for all McKinney-Vento services, including participation in the free school meals program. However, two of the principals involved did not believe the family was homeless and told the nutrition program director not to allow the children to eat for free.

Questions

1. Are the children homeless?
2. What are some steps that Mr. Powers could take to resolve this situation?
3. How much autonomy does the law give the liaison?
4. For what programs and services are the students eligible?
5. How should feasibility be addressed in this situation?

Scenario #7

Juliet Capulet, 14, went to live with her aunt, Luci Borden, during the summer. Juliet's mom, Lizzie, is on drugs and pays more attention to her boyfriends and getting high than she does to Juliet.

Luci, a professional woman with a good job, is willing to raise Juliet. Luci asked Lizzie to sign a guardianship paper giving Luci guardianship of Juliet, and Lizzie signed it.

When Luci took Juliet to enroll in Metropolis ISD, the registrar told Luci that Lizzie would have to sign the district's guardianship paper—the notarized statement that Luci had would not be sufficient.

Luci was able to find Lizzie and Lizzie signed the school's form. When Luci took in that paper to the registrar, she was informed that she would have to obtain legal guardianship of Juliet before the school would enroll Juliet.

Questions

1. What is the district required to do in order to remain in compliance with Federal and State statutes?
2. What could the district do to move from compliance to commitment?

Scenario #8

Gemma and Tony Smith both started working the night shift during the week at a hospital—they start work at 4 p.m. and often don't get home until 1 or 2 in the morning. She is an LVN supervisor and he is an ambulance driver. The hospital at which they work is located about 15 miles from where they live. They live in Metropolis ISD and both of their children, ages 7 and 9, are eligible to attend Harry Potter Elementary School.

Because of their schedule, they decided to place the children with a caregiver, Mrs. Doubtfire, who resides in the Jenkins Elementary School attendance zone in Metropolis ISD. They will drop off the children to Mrs. Doubtfire on Monday morning and they will pick up the children early on Saturday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith have indicated on the student residency questionnaire that the children are in a temporary living situation. When the homeless liaison went to check on the situation, she discovered that the Smiths are paying Mrs. Doubtfire to care for the children all week.

Questions

1. Are the Smith children homeless?
2. What action must the district take in order to be in compliance with state and Federal laws?

Scenario #9

Snookie Smiley is 5 years old and moves around with her mother to various relatives' homes, all of whom live in Metropolis ISD. Last year, because of her homeless status, she was able to attend Pre-K at Jenkins Elementary School, which was directly across the street from where her Aunt Kitty, with whom she was living, resided. Snookie was with Aunt Kitty for most of the year, and Aunt Kitty would walk her to and from school every day.

Right after school was out in May, Snookie's mom started getting into drugs again so Aunt Kitty kicked her out of the house. Snookie could have stayed, but Snookie's mom wouldn't let her. The two moved in with a friend of Snookie's mom, Linda, and her daughter, Brenda, in the Harry Potter Elementary School attendance zone, which is also in Metropolis ISD.

Snookie's mother didn't like Harry Potter Elementary very well, and wanted Snookie to attend Jenkins again this year. Jenkins Elementary is on the other side of town, about 12 miles from where she is staying now.

Questions

1. What are Jenkins and Harry Potter Elementary Schools required to do in order to remain in compliance with Federal and State statutes?
2. What could the schools do to move from compliance to commitment?

Scenario #10

Johnny Angel's parents are divorced. During the school year, Johnny, who is 15, lives in New Mexico with his father, who was granted custody of him by a judge. He spends the summers with his mom and her boyfriend.

After a great summer with his mom, Johnny decided that he was not going back to New Mexico to be with his father, whom Johnny claimed was very abusive toward him.

Johnny and his mom went to Metropolis ISD to register Johnny right before school started but they were told they'd need Johnny's records from New Mexico before they could enroll him in MISD.

They were able to get the records, but someone from Johnny's school in New Mexico alerted his father that Johnny was trying to enroll in Metropolis ISD. Mr. Angel called the school several times and told the school to not enroll Johnny, so the school told Johnny they could not enroll him and that he should just go back to New Mexico and make up with his father.

Questions

1. Did the school district follow federal and state laws?
2. What was correct or incorrect about how the district handled this situation?
3. Does the fact that Johnny claimed he was abused have any bearing on what the district should do?
4. How can the district move from compliance to commitment?