

A photograph of a newspaper front page with the headline 'OPIOID CRISIS' in large, bold, black letters. Above the headline, it says 'BREAKING NEWS' and 'YOUR NUMBER ONE SOURCE FOR HEADLINES'. To the left of the headline, it says 'Since 1883'. To the right, it says '\$1.00'. Below the headline, there are several columns of text, including '25,000 DEATHS IN THE LAST', 'SOCIAL', 'more than 90', 'community that', 'become addicted to', 'under', 'deaths due to', 'oid overdoses have act', and 'underrep'. A green horizontal bar is at the top of the page, and a dark green rectangular box is at the bottom, containing the text 'APPLYING PARENTAL OPIOID USE KNOWLEDGE TO SHELTER HEARINGS' in white capital letters.

**BREAKING NEWS**  
Since 1883 YOUR NUMBER ONE SOURCE FOR HEADLINES \$1.00

# OPIOID CRISIS

25,000 DEATHS IN THE LAST  
SOCIAL  
more than 90  
community that  
become addicted to  
under  
deaths due to  
oid overdoses have act  
underrep

APPLYING PARENTAL OPIOID USE  
KNOWLEDGE TO SHELTER HEARINGS

- This material is offered by the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association and JBS International. It is supported by funding from the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (Contract #LD987) as part of its Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis (O-STR) grant efforts.



## PURPOSE OF THE OPIOID STR GRANT

The grant aims to address the opioid crisis by:

- ✓ Increasing access to treatment;
- ✓ Reducing unmet treatment need; and
- ✓ Reducing opioid overdose related deaths.

## MODULE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Participants will:

- Identify case facts that are suggestive of parental opioid-use-disorders.
- Identify case facts that are suggestive of child neglect.
- Recognize important missing case information.

## MATERIALS NEEDED

- Case example of Daniel Martin (also provided in slides)
- Judicial Bench Guide
- Paper and pen/pencil to write thoughts/notes.



Daniel lives with his mother, Kayla Martin, who is 22 years old, and is a part-time student at the local community college.

Daniel's father lives a couple of hours away, and sees Daniel occasionally. The parents were never married.

CASE STUDY: SHELTER HEARING FOR DANIEL MARTIN, AGE 7 MONTHS

## CASE STUDY CONT.

Investigators visited the Martin home (a one-bedroom apartment) because of a hotline call from a neighbor who was worried about the well-being of Daniel due to Kayla's apparent heavy drug use.



## CASE STUDY CONT.

- The unannounced visit occurred mid-afternoon on a weekday. Daniel was propped up on a pillow, in a playpen in the living room.





## CASE STUDY CONT.



- He was quiet, but awake.
- Kayla was napping on the couch, but woke up easily and was cooperative with the investigator.
- She admitted to occasional use of various drugs; (including heroin), but said that it was not a problem, and that it didn't interfere with her schooling or her care of her son.

## CASE STUDY CONT.

- Kayla permitted the investigators to walk through the apartment. The apartment was very messy, but not unsafely dirty.
- There was no visible evidence of drugs or paraphernalia. There was an empty can of formula on the counter, and several dirty bottles in the sink along with plates and utensils.



## CASE STUDY CONT.

There was hardly any food in the house, and there was no food suitable for a baby.

When asked about what she was feeding Daniel, Kayla said that she was planning to go to the store later that day.

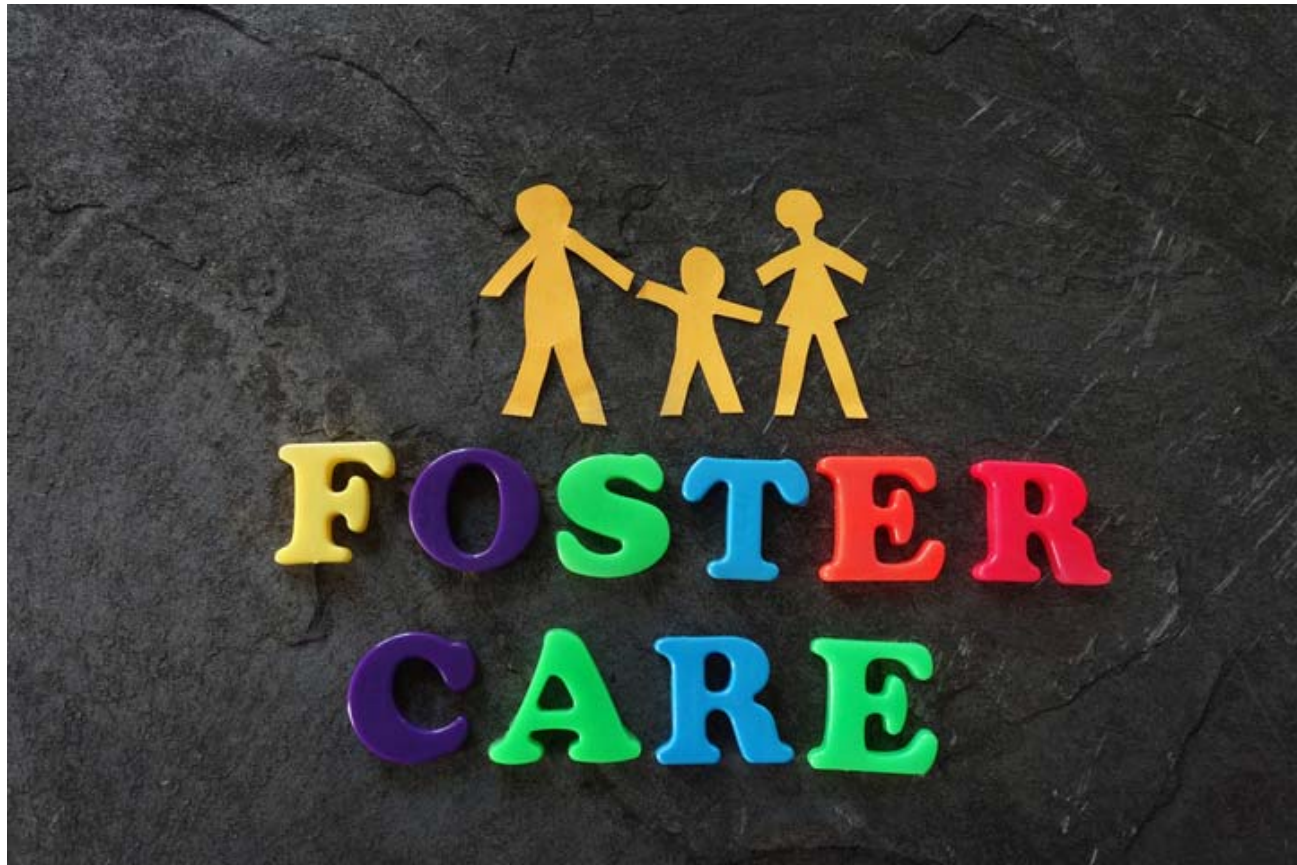


---

CASE STUDY:  
SHELTER  
HEARING FOR  
DANIEL MARTIN,  
AGE 7 MONTHS

Kayla denied needing any help for her son or herself. She said that she had family in the area, but hadn't seen them in quite a while because "they were always giving her a hard time about one thing or another."

She said that Daniel's father was also critical of the way that she was taking care of Daniel.



## CASE STUDY CONT.

Daniel was placed in emergency foster care because of the lack of food for him in the house, and the lack of concern that his mother showed in regards to this problem.

## DIRECTIONS

- The following slides will take you through some questions about what the court knows (from the information provided in the case example), and what else would be helpful for the court to know.

## SHELTER HEARING:

The main decisions  
the court will make  
at the shelter  
hearing

Can Daniel be safely returned home?

Can DCF create a workable in-home safety plan (e.g., buying food for the baby, and checking in with the family)?

## Bench Guide for Opioid-Involved Dependency Cases<sup>\*†</sup>



*An application of the current state of knowledge about opioid use disorders to  
the dependency court process*

<sup>\*</sup> These guidelines are specific to opioid use cases and are in addition to broad judicial requirements/best practices at each stage of a dependency case. See Florida's Dependency Benchbook for comprehensive information regarding legal and non-legal matters in dependency cases.  
<http://www.flcourts.org/resources-and-services/family-courts/dependency/dependency-benchbook.html>

<sup>†</sup> The information in these guidelines is organized around specific hearings and for brevity sake is not repeated across hearings. However, there is considerable overlap between the hearings regarding relevant information about opioids and potential judicial inquiry. The reader should view the hearing breakdowns with some flexibility.

## REVIEW JUDICIAL GUIDE

Please review the  
section on Shelter  
Hearings in the  
Judicial Guide.



## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- Does Kayla have an opioid or other substance use disorder?
- What does the court know?
- Please take a minute or two, and jot down what you know from the case example that relates to whether Kayla has an opioid use disorder. When you have finished, go to the next slide.



## COMPARE YOUR NOTES WITH THESE OBSERVATIONS FROM THE CASE EXAMPLE:

- A neighbor thinks that Kayla has a problem with drugs
- Kayla admits to some drug use, but denies that it is a problem
- The baby is neglected (but other problems could cause that as well [e.g., postpartum depression])
- There is no food in the house (this might indicate that money is being spent on drugs/not food)
- Family estrangement.

## OTHER QUESTIONS?

- What other questions might the court have?
- Please take a minute or two, and jot down other questions you might have about Kayla's substance use. When you have finished, please go to the next slide.



## COMPARE YOUR NOTES WITH THESE OTHER QUESTIONS:

- Is there other specific information in the initial report from the neighbor about the concerns
- Were motivational interviewing techniques used by the investigators
- Are there other adults living in the home or frequently visiting? If so, have background checks been conducted on them?

## COMPARE YOUR NOTES WITH THESE OTHER QUESTIONS:

- Have background checks on Kayla been done, and is there any history of drug violations?
- Have collateral interviews been conducted with Kayla's family members (including whether she has ever overdosed)?
- Has Kayla been offered a voluntary drug assessment, and has she been assisted in arrangements to participate?

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- Can Daniel be safely returned to his mother?
- What does the court know?
- Please take a minute or two, and jot down what you know from the case example that informs a decision about whether Daniel can be safely returned to his mother.
- When you are finished, go to the next slide.



## COMPARE YOUR NOTES WITH THESE OBSERVATIONS FROM THE CASE EXAMPLE:

- Daniel was sitting quietly in a very dirty and wet diaper while his mother napped nearby. This is highly suggestive of significant neglect, because a soiled and very wet diaper indicates a lack of responsive care for at least several hours.
- There was no food for Daniel in the house (and the mother napped rather than getting more food).
- There was no obvious support system for Kayla and Daniel. Both were estranged from family and the baby's father.

## OTHER QUESTIONS?

- Please take a minute or two, and jot down other questions you might have about whether Daniel can be safely returned to his family.
- When you are finished, go to the next slide.





Are there treatment facilities that would take Kayla and Daniel; and would Kayla voluntarily agree to go?

Might the baby's father or Kayla's family member be suitable and able to care for Daniel?

COMPARE YOUR NOTES WITH THESE OTHER QUESTIONS

[illegible]

## FOR QUESTIONS, OR FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For additional opioid training modules:

- [FADAA.org](http://FADAA.org)

For additional information about Florida's opioid treatment options or other DCF opioid information:

Walter Castle LCSW, MCAP

Opioid STR Project Director

Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Florida Department of Children and Families

1317 Winewood Blvd., Bldg. 6, Room 250

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Office: (850) 717-4277

Email: [walter.castle@myflfamilies.com](mailto:walter.castle@myflfamilies.com)