

Introducing Derrick Johnson

Part One – Module IV

Prior to viewing the Johnson video, this is what we know...

Intake information

Reporter: Sally Davis, a teacher at Edwin Middle School (Derrick’s teacher)

Report: Mrs. Davis called the agency to report that Derrick has again appeared at school with bruises and welts on his arms and legs. This is the third report made by the school this year (one six months ago and one three months ago). The previous reports were looked into but did not result in any action. Derrick’s teacher states she is concerned about Derrick. He is fighting several times per month (sometimes several times per week) with older boys at school. The school is attempting to deal with this problem; however, she is concerned. Derrick has asked them not to call his father to report he is fighting at school. He states that he gets into trouble at home, which usually includes being “beaten” by his father.

Mrs. Davis reports that except for this behavior issue, Derrick is a good student and is ahead of most of his peers academically. Currently residing in the home are the following:

Derrick Johnson	Age 12	Alleged Victim
Sherice Johnson	Age 9	Sibling (unknown involvement at this time)
Terrence Johnson	Age 42	Father, Alleged Perpetrator
Gloria Johnson	Age 37	Mother, Caretaker (unknown involvement)

Past Case History:

Two previous reports were received. The investigator was able to obtain the following information from the case file:

Previous reports were both unsubstantiated for physical abuse, as there were marks on Derrick’s arms and legs from what appeared to be a leather belt. Derrick stated that he had been hit by kids at school and once or twice by his father with a belt. Jayne Seymour, Derrick’s teacher, confirmed that older boys had been hitting Derrick, and they were disciplined.

Mr. Johnson admitted that he has used physical discipline on Derrick but denied that he would have made such marks. Due to the inability to account for injuries, the report was unsubstantiated. The family refused agency services. Mr. Johnson was cautioned against using physical discipline on any part of Derrick’s body other than the buttocks and also advised that the use of an object such as a belt could lead to abuse.