

Case Study #3



Mrs. Flores is a single mother with a big heart. She works for City Zoning Department as an administrative clerk. She is the biological mother to a 15-year-old son named Jonathan and a 10-year-old daughter named Jessica. She provides well for her family and loves being a mother. This love for family led her to foster care. She was approved as a resource parent and waited for her first placement.

Mrs. Flores received a call from her social worker about a possible placement into her home. A 12-year-old foster child by the name of Sophia was presented to her.

She was removed from her home of origin for both physical and emotional abuse. She also experienced significant neglect and often had to provide herself with the necessities of life. The social worker reported that the child was kind, but it was reported that she was prone to stealing things from prior resource homes. Mrs. Flores felt like she could help this child, and provide her a nurturing home.

Placement was made, and Sophia bonded quickly with the family. The children became friends and played well together. It was working just the way Mrs. Flores had envisioned, until things took an unexpected turn.

One Saturday morning, Mrs. Flores was in the kitchen preparing breakfast while the children were playing in the family room. While the children were playing, 10-year-old Jessica left and went into her mother's bedroom. There, she found her mother's purse and quietly went through it. She took \$20.00 and put things back the way she found it.



Later, Mrs. Flores was preparing to go grocery shopping. As she prepared, she discovered that \$20 was missing from her purse. Her biological children had never been known to steal; however, her foster child Sophia had an obvious record. She was pretty sure that she knew what had happened.

What can Mrs. Florez do to not blame the wrong person? What are the dangers of blaming Sophia just because of her past? How does Mrs. Flores resolve the matter using positive parenting?



- NOTE - Participants should use the training they received with Positive Parenting and Trauma Sensitive Parenting to guide their responses.