

## Case Study #5

Mr. and Mrs. Abbi are foster parents. They are a great family and live with adequate but humble finances. Mr. Abbi is a janitor with a janitorial service, and Mrs. Abbi take in ironing to help make their budget work. They qualified to be foster parents, but the truth is, money is tight in their home.



The Abbi home has room for four foster children. They expressed interest in helping a sibling set, since they know how important it is to keep siblings together. Soon after they were

approved, a sibling set of four was presented to them for placement. It seemed to be a perfect match. They accepted and the children were quickly placed.

Mr. and Mrs. Abbi received the kids late one evening. The children came with only the clothing on their backs. Their clothing was torn, tattered and old. It was also inappropriate for the season. Mr. and Mrs. Abbi knew that there would be reimbursement to pay for the care of the children, but no money came with the children. Mrs. Abbi started to calculate what the children needed. She found that they did not have the financial resources to buy the children what they needed and felt like the placements were going to be a financial burden.

The social worker directed Mr. and Mrs. Abbi to get essential clothing for the children immediately. Mrs. Abbi refused and stated that it should not be her job to buy the clothing until she is paid. She also stated that she expected the agency to pay for clothing as she understood that the check they would eventually receive each month was payment for being a foster parent. She stated, “We should have received some monies at the time of placement... This is just not fair.”

While Mr. and Mrs. Abbi tried to work through these problems, the children remained without proper clothing and supplies.

What went wrong? What did Mrs. Abbi not understand? What should Mr. and Mrs. Abbi have done to properly prepare for fostering children? What would you have done differently if you were in Mrs. Abbi’s position?



- NOTE - Participants should use the training they received with Financial Training to guide their responses.