

The Byrd Case

Honey Byrd (DOB 07/14/09) is a thin, once retained, speech and language impaired, second grade, multiracial child at your elementary school. Her student identification number is 0600000000. Honey, her mother, father, and 5-year-old brother (Slugger) reside at 1121 NW Angel Tree Lane, Apt 109, Miracle, FL 98765. Honey's teacher, Mrs. Anderson, is in your office to discuss the concerns that she has with regard to Honey's peer relationships or lack thereof.

Mrs. Anderson reports that Honey was retained in the 1st grade and her scores indicate that she is in danger of failing again. The father will not allow Honey or her brother to participate in the after school-tutoring program on the school campus. Nor will he allow the services of the SES providers. Ms. Anderson has made several attempts to get the parents in for a conference. The mother is out of town again, (working) according to Honey. The father, a former military officer, told you at parent pickup (two weeks ago) that he would be in the following Monday. He has not shown up nor has he returned any of your calls. When Mom is in town, she does return your messages and show concern as to the academic progress of Honey.

It has been observed that Honey tends to seek the approval of all adults and does not play with any of the girls in her class. Students have asked Mrs. Anderson why Honey never eats. From time to time Honey will interact with the male students, but only if it involves some sort of physical challenge. The last time Honey challenged one of the boys to a race she fell and hurt her arm and legs. After going to the nurse, it was found that she had old bruises on the knuckles of both hands, as well as her legs. When asked how she got them, Honey replied: "My Dad, he has me boxing 'cause I gotta get tough. He said I'm a Byrd girl and Byrd girls ain't no punks." Honey then proceeds to mimic how she boxes and the "drills" that she and her brother do for an hour everyday. Honey's advice to you is that you should try the drills because they help her shape up. According to her, Dad says her weight is getting out of control and that's why she doesn't eat lunch some days.

When questioned about the old bruises on her legs, Honey said she fell. Honey asked if she could go back to class, and asked that the nurse not call her dad. The nurse informed her that it is school policy to call home when a child has been hurt at school. It's then that Honey informs you that she and her brother are not supposed to come in the office or talk about what goes on at home. Honey says, "What goes on in the Byrd house stays in the Byrd house."