

The Garcia Case

Sunshine Garcia (DOB 05/04/06) is a 13-year-old Hispanic student at your middle school. Sunshine, her 3 younger sisters (Melba, Peaches, and Cream), and her mother reside at 101 N. Diversity Lane, in Happy Acres, Florida 00000. Her FSI is 0000000000. Ms. Garcia emigrated to the United States, but the children were all born in Florida.

Sunshine recently confided in you that she has a boyfriend and she may be pregnant. As a result of this information, a referral was made to the Teen Parent Program social worker for your area. After interviewing Sunshine at school, the social worker made a home visit. The social worker came back and expressed some concern about the situation at home. Because Ms. Garcia speaks very little English, your school has arranged for Ms. Garcia to come to school today for a conference with the teen parent social worker and other support staff, including a Spanish translator.

During the conference it is revealed that the father of Sunshine's child is 23 years old and resides in the home with the family. He has a full time job and provides significant financial support to the family. Ms. Garcia also works full time, but at a low paying job due to her lack of education and of English fluency. The mother is aware of the age of Sunshine's boyfriend, but thinks that there is nothing wrong with the age difference. In fact, it appears that she has encouraged their relationship as a way of improving the family's financial condition. Ms. Garcia states that Sunshine's boyfriend is a good man who loves the family and takes care of them.