

The Martinez Case

Joy Martinez (date of birth 01/12/08) is a Hispanic 5th grade, exceptional education student at your school. She and her family reside at 1170 Candy Drive, Apt. 103, Flirts, FL 00000. Her student identification number (FSI) is 06700000000. Joy has been sent to the office because she has soiled her clothes again and is presently menstruating. She has a history of head lice and often comes to school dirty, hungry, and in need of feminine products. Her other siblings (two sisters and one brother) have all attended your school in the past. Both sisters were pregnant (by adult males) by the time they turned 13 and 14 years old.

In an effort to help the family, staff members always donate food and clothes to the family, and make sure that they receive help during the holidays. Protective Services is involved with the family, as are other community providers, school social worker, and other school personnel. Joy has been observed to be more withdrawn than normal. She frequently sits by herself at lunch and during school activities.

After being sent to the school clinic because she appeared very lethargic in class, Joy told the nurse: "I'm okay. Can I stay at school today? I don't want to go home...my sister is gonna be mad." Joy said that she told her sister she needed a pad, but her sister said they didn't have any. "I didn't tell Mama 'cause she came home happy for the party." Joy said that sometimes she stays at home alone with her five nieces and nephews.

Joy's mother, who speaks no English, says through an interpreter that "Joy just want attention...I work two jobs now." Her mom has not shown up for conferences in the past and according to the children often has strange men visiting the home.