

PRE-FINALIZATION ADOPTION SERVICES

Sharon: Post-Placement

Sharon moved in with her adoptive family three months ago. The adoptive parents, Kerry and Ron including their two daughters, Aida and Hailey, worked hard to prepare for Sharon's placement, reading articles and attending classes. The first two weeks went well with Sharon enjoying the attention of her parents and sisters. When it was time to begin school, however, Kerry and Ron began to struggle with Sharon's behaviors.

The nighttime behaviors increased with bedwetting and nightmares. This disrupted the household as Sharon's sister, Aida, had to sleep on the floor of her older sister's room and Kerry had to stay up calming Sharon. When Ron tried to relieve his wife, Sharon screamed and cried. This left Kerry exhausted each day when she went to school to teach.

In school, Sharon has struggled. While Kerry and Ron have implemented a strong, positive homework routine, Sharon's work in class has been up and down. She has difficulty working in small groups, breaks out in tears when she feels other students are leaving her out, and is uncooperative. She will ask to go to the restroom but instead goes to Kerry's 5th grade classroom wanting reassurance and to sit on her lap. This is interfering in that class' learning and the 5th graders are beginning to tease her on the playground, creating a whole new set of problems.

Sharon's sisters have grown weary of her being in their belongings, taking their things, demanding all their mother's attention and disrupting the family.

Today, Kerry and Ron called and stated they are not sure they can hang on. They are concerned because they overheard Aida, and Hailey talking last night after bedtime saying that they wish Sharon would run away. And early this morning Sharon snuck into the bathroom when Ron was showering, took off her clothes and tried to get in the shower with him! He admits that there have been times when Sharon has made him feel uncomfortable.

They are at their wits' end!

Think about what you could do *immediately* to help all members of the family and what informal supports are *readily* available.

Using the worksheet on back:

- **Identify the presenting problem and its source by noting the specific psychological, emotional, and social issues each family member may be experiencing in relation to the adoption.**
- **Develop a short-term plan that will give the family immediate relief.**
- **Assuming the family wants to move forward with the adoption, design an intervention plan.**

Family member	What feelings is the family member having?	What short term relief do they need?	What interventions will address the feelings and behaviors?
KERRY			
RON			
AIDA AND HAILEY			