

FAMILY URGENT RESPONSE SYSTEM SCENARIOS

1. RESPONDING TO MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS/AVOIDING PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALIZATION

Nina is a 7-year-old youth in foster care who was recently removed from her home due to severe domestic violence. Nina is having increasingly escalating behaviors in her new resource family's home, including verbal and physical aggression, hitting, punching, kicking, attempting to harm other children in the home, and suicidal threats including threats to run into traffic. Nina's resource parent calls the FURS hotline when Nina has been exhibiting the behaviors for over an hour. Nina was screaming, hitting, and threatening to run into traffic.

2. YOUTH CONTACTS THE HOTLINE

Michael, age 14, calls FURS after his resource parent cancels his sibling visit because the resource parent says she needs the car to go pick up her grandson from the airport. Michael says his resource parent regularly cancels visits with his siblings and parents at the last minute and doesn't value his relationships. He's very frustrated and says he wants a new placement.

3. FORMER FOSTER YOUTH THAT HAS BEEN REUNIFIED

Alejandra, age 19, is living with her biological mother whom she reunified with a few months before her 18th birthday. Her dependency case is now closed. Alejandra and her mother had a big argument and it's the middle of the night. Alejandra's mother is telling her she can find somewhere else to sleep. Alejandra calls the FURS hotline.

4. PREVENTING LAW ENFORCEMENT INVOLVEMENT

Robert, a probation-supervised youth in care, age 17, has an argument with his caregiver over a consequence he received. He is very upset, is yelling, and throwing things in the home and threatening to run away.

5. RESOURCE PARENT REQUESTING ASSISTANCE WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

Devon, a resource parent, contacts the FURS hotline because he has been trying to get in touch with the social worker for several weeks to seek assistance in getting connected to more support and resources for a child in his care. He believes the child may have some developmental delays and much greater developmental needs than he was originally told by the social worker at the time of placement. He has called and left several messages without a response. He is willing to work with the child in his care but feels he cannot adequately meet the child's needs without additional support. If he cannot get the support he needs, he is considering giving notice to have the child moved.

6. YOUNG FOSTER CHILD IN A PRE-ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT

Elijah is a 2-year-old child in foster care. He was recently placed in a new pre-adoptive placement and enrolled in a full-time center-based daycare. He has been crying for hours at the new daycare. The center has called his resource parents on multiple occasions to come pick him up early, which is placing his resource parents' employment in jeopardy and stress on the placement. Elijah's daycare provider contacts the FURS hotline after Elijah throws a toy and bites another child.

7. GROUP HOME/STRTP YOUTH CALLER

Damian is a 16-year-old young man who has lived in group homes since he was 12 years old. He has a therapist and is receiving Therapeutic Behavior Services. He recently transitioned to living in a new group home. After a discussion at dinner, he became angry at group home staff and started thinking of running away. Damian felt unable to process his emotions without support and called the FURS hotline.

8. SUICIDAL IDEATION AND MONOLINGUAL SPANISH SPEAKING CALLER

Ana is a 15-year-old monolingual Spanish-speaking youth in care who has been suffering with severe depression. Most of her family does not live in the U.S., and she was separated from her biological father one year ago following allegations of neglect. Ana's resource parent noticed a change in Ana's behavior in recent days as she became more withdrawn and isolated. Ana's resource parent called the FURS hotline requesting support, as Ana had verbalized suicidal ideation the previous night.

9. RESOURCE PARENT CALLS AFTER YOUTH ON INFORMAL PROBATION WAS IN A FIGHT

Vincent is a 14-year-old boy on informal probation who punched a friend in the mouth during an argument after football practice. Vincent has been struggling in school, and his resource parent is not sure what to do as Vincent has become increasingly angry over the past year. Vincent's resource parent calls the FURS hotline requesting support upon arriving home with Vincent after practice since Vincent is still agitated from the altercation.

10. YOUTH'S MOTHER CALLS DUE TO PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION REFUSAL

Margie is a 17-year-old girl who spent 10 years in foster care but has recently reunified with her biological mother. While in foster care, Margie was diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder and has been taking medication for the past 3 years. Shortly after reunifying with her mother, Margie requested to self-administer her own medication and eventually became more sporadic in taking her medication as prescribed. Margie's mom called FURS after completing a pill count and realizing how many dosages Margie had missed in the past week. Margie's mom reports that she has started to notice an increase in symptoms and states that when she tried to speak with Margie about her medication, Margie got very upset.

11. GUARDIAN DISCOVERS THAT YOUTH HAS BEEN SENDING EXPLICIT PICTURES

Sonja is a 13-year-old girl who has been living with her former 5th grade teacher, Monica, who became a mentor to Sonja. On Sonja's 13th birthday, Monica gave Sonja a cell phone. Sonja has been wanting a cell phone for months and prior to providing the cell phone, Monica enabled parental controls as a safeguard, and set firm expectations with Sonja about her cell phone use. Monica called the FURS hotline after discovering that Sonja had been sending explicit pictures of herself to an older man on Instagram.

12. HOMELESS FORMER FOSTER YOUTH

Darian is a 19-year-old youth who entered foster care at the age of 8 years old. Darian identifies with the LGBTQIA+ community and decided to move in with their adult cousin once they turned 18. Recently Darian's cousin suddenly moved to a different state leaving Darian without a place to stay or the means to rent another space. Darian calls the FURS hotline at 2am when a storm hits while they are sleeping in a park.

13. TRANSGENDER YOUTH SEEKING HORMONE THERAPY

Oliver is 15 years old and identifies as female to male transgender and has recently been placed in a new home. According to Oliver, Oliver and the resource family have been getting along really well, but when Oliver disclosed that Oliver wanted to pursue hormone therapy, Oliver felt that the family did not respond well. Oliver tried to reach their social worker but their call went to voicemail. Oliver calls the FURS hotline in tears.

14. BASKETBALL COACH CALLS FURS WITH ADOPTED YOUTH

Amara is a 16-year-old varsity basketball player who has lived with her adoptive parents for the past 10 years. Amara confides in her basketball coach that her parents have been very harsh with her ever since her and her boyfriend got together. Amara states that her parents do not approve of her boyfriend and have been treating Amara differently than they used to. Amara reports that this has been causing her a lot of stress the past 3 weeks. Knowing about the FURS hotline, Amara's basketball coach encourages Amara to reach out to FURS. Amara's coach agrees to call FURS with Amara to help her improve her relationship with her adoptive parents.

15. CAREGIVER UNCOMFORTABLE WITH YOUTH'S BIRTH CONTROL

Molly is a 14-year-old youth who has been placed with her resource parents for the last year. While putting away laundry in Molly's dresser drawers her resource parent, Marcus, finds birth control pills and condoms. Marcus and his wife are very religious, and do not believe in the use of birth control and worry Molly will have a negative influence on the other children in the home. He feels uncomfortable talking about sex with Molly and is thinking about giving notice. Marcus calls the FURS hotline for advice on how to talk to Molly.

16. YOUTH REFUSING TO GO TO SCHOOL & TRUANCY CONCERN

Jordan is a 12-year-old youth in care who has been placed with a resource family for a couple of months. He has had several different placements in the last year. Jordan refuses to go to school and will not get in the car. His resource parents do not know what to do. Jordan's resource parents are concerned they will get in trouble and their resource family approval could be rescinded due to Jordan's school truancy. Jordan's resource parents call the FURS hotline for assistance.

17. SOCIAL WORKER CONTACTS HOTLINE FOR SUPPORT FOR YOUTH ON CASELOAD

Jaime is the social worker for Neveah and Jackson, 4-year-old twins, who witnessed the murder of their mother by a boyfriend. Neither child has started to receive services yet. Jaime is visiting them at the home of their paternal grandmother, where they were placed a month ago. The maternal grandmother is reporting concerns that the children aren't sleeping, have been fighting with one another, and are frequently inconsolable. The paternal grandmother tells Jaime she is overwhelmed, that she doesn't understand why the children are acting the way they are, and that she doesn't think she can continue to care for them. Jaime needs to leave the home for an afternoon court hearing, but feels the paternal grandmother needs immediate support to help stabilize the placement. Jamie contacts the FURS hotline while she is at the paternal grandmother's home to seek additional support for the family.

18. FORMER FOSTER YOUTH FEELING ISOLATED AND DISCONNECTED DURING THE PANDEMIC

Esme, age 19, left foster care when she turned 18 years old as she did not want to participate in extended foster care at that time. Since then she has been living with an elderly relative who has health issues. The relative has told her that if she leaves the house to have contact with friends during the pandemic, she cannot return. Esme feels very isolated and alone and is consumed with worry about getting her or her relative sick. She is no longer attending community college as she didn't have access to the technology she needed to participate during the pandemic. She calls the FURS hotline very upset at 4 am after a sleepless night.