Case Scenario #1

James is the father of two year old Chance and five year old Neveah. Chance is placed into protective custody by hospital staff because James will not consent to a blood transfusion for Chance. Chance suffers from severe anemia and James prays to God that Chance will heal but does not believe in blood transfusions. The juvenile court detains Chance on the petition and orders the blood transfusion. After the blood transfusion is administered, the court dismisses the petition. The hospital social worker also noted that Neveah is underweight for her age and observes bruising on her arms and legs. While James is visiting Chance in the hospital room the next day, the hospital social worker takes Neveah to the play room to talk to her. Neveah tells the social worker that she only eats at school and that her dad leaves them with "stinky" people. About 90 minutes later, James finds Neveah with the social worker in the play room. The hospital social worker talks to James about what Neveah told her. James gets upsets and tells the social worker she had no right to talk to his daughter and leaves the hospital with Neveah. The hospital social worker calls the CPS hotline to make a report of possible neglect. The next day while James and Neveah are visiting Chance, a CPS social worker comes in to talk to the family. The social worker observes that Neveah is underweight and asks to speak to both children privately. James denies this request and asks the social worker to leave so that he and his children can pray. Based on her observations of Neveah and lack of information from the father, the social worker lists the allegations of neglect as substantiated and files a warrant to place the children in protective custody.

Case Scenario #2

Robin and Rick are the parents of Crystal, age eight and David, age five. David and Crystal were placed into protective custody by law enforcement after they were found during a drug raid of their home. Rick is in custody; Robin is out on bail. During interviews with her attorney, Robin appeared to "zone out" and not be responsive to the attorney's questions. Rick, on the other hand, was hostile towards his attorney. He told the court he did not want an attorney and his kids should not be in protective custody because he and Robin had "paperwork" that left the kids with his parents. At the jurisdictional and dispositional trial, Crystal wanted to testify that her mother never abused or neglected her and met all her needs. The court felt that allowing Crystal to testify would not be in her best interest and denied her testimony in court. Her attorney did tell the court that she wanted to go live with her mom. The father, who has pending criminal charges, does not want to testify, but is called to the stand by the county attorney. The court takes jurisdiction under Section (b) of Welf & Inst. Code 300 and orders family reunification services. In preparation for six month review hearing held under 366.21, mother and her attorney met to discuss the recommendation of continued reunification services. The attorney was having a hard time getting mother to focus and was really not clear on how mother wanted to proceed. Mother wanted the attorney to meet with her and father together. However, father does not want an attorney and has "fired" his court-appointed attorney. At the hearing, mother's attorney sets the hearing for trial. The case progresses through reunification. Eventually, the court terminates reunification services and sets the case for hearing under section 366.26 for termination of parental rights and adoption. The minor's attorney sets the case for a settlement conference/trial. Crystal does not want to be adopted and still wishes to return home. Father does not want his parental rights terminated either. The court advises both mother and father to return for the settlement conference/trial. Mother and father do not show up; the case is not settled; the court terminates parental rights.