

Barbara Morgan is a 35-year-old single mother of two children, Mariana (7) and Max (4). Barbara and her family have an open CPS case after she found out that her ex-boyfriend had physically hurt Max when he was in his care.

Barbara and her children live in a room at her sister's house. The family was living with the ex boyfriend but after the incident, Barbara moved in with her sister. Barbara has shared that she does not let the children play outside and especially after dark. There have been multiple shootings in her neighborhood and she does not feel safe. Barbara works full time as a cashier at a grocery store. Her sister supports Barbara with childcare when Barbara has to work and the kids are out of school. Her sister does not have children of her own and lets them watch a lot of TV, but since she's the only support Barbara has she doesn't say too much about it, even if she disapproves. Barbara is concerned about overstaying her welcome and being asked to leave.

The children attend school on a regular basis but since the move, Mariana's teachers have reported to Barbara that she often gets into fights with other children and has difficulties completing her school work. Max attends pre-k and while he used to love going to school, recently he's been crying every time they walk into the classroom and refuses to let go of Barbara when they get there and his teachers have also told Barbara that Max is not getting along with the other kids and often pushes them.

The children's father is not present in their lives though he does occasionally send money and gifts on their birthdays. Barbara uses the money to buy the children clothes and anything else they may need. They separated the first time after a DV incident that occurred between them when Mariana was a toddler. They got back together and then separated again after Max was born following another DV incident. He does not have any custody and is not involved in parenting. He used to be Barbara's drug dealer but Barbara reports she no longer uses but sometimes drinks after work.

Barbara and the kids have Medi-Cal and she takes them to all of their annual check ups. Barbara reports that she hasn't had time to go to the doctor but is worried about some headaches that she gets occasionally that are sometimes so bad, she can't go to work. She's been talked to by her manager about her attendance recently and she's worried she's going to lose her job.

On Barbara's days off, they try and do things as a family like go to the park, the beach, or the library, but their car is not reliable so often times, they have to take public transit and make sure they're home before dark. She barely spends any money on herself and makes sure the kids have the best clothes, books, and toys.

During a home visit, it was clear that the apartment is in need of repair, though no hazards were observed that would be dangerous for children. Barbara mentions they had a roach infestation but the landlord took care of it last week. Barbara and the children are dressed appropriately for the weather and were well groomed. The children were excited to show off their books and toys. Mariana carried Max around the apartment and cuddled with him. When Max approached Barbara with one of his toy cars so she can play with him, she brushed him off and told Mariana to play with her brother. As the kids run off, Barbara mentions that it's hard to be patient with the kids and engage with them when she's getting a headache and sometimes yells at them.