

01/28/2020: 8.4: Our home visit with the birth mother in the aforementioned case was interrupted when my supervisor received a phone call from the Juvenile Court informing us that the judge had granted emergency custody to the foster/adoptive mother of the birth mother's other three children. This came as a shock to the birth mother, as she had no idea they were petitioning and we were unable to share this with her due to client confidentiality. Honestly, it was a very heartbreaking situation and I couldn't help but feel for this birth mother. Upon hearing this news, both she and her grandmother began to cry uncontrollably as this was their worst fear coming true. My supervisor calmly explained that this was not our decision but the courts, that our case was still open, and that we wanted to help. My instructor also shared that we would be willing to facilitate the exchange between the birth mother and the foster/adoptive mother as they were planning to come pick up the child within the hour. The birth mother turned to me helplessly and nodded. I don't think I will ever be able to forget the look in her eyes. I placed my hand on her shoulder as she looked at my instructor and said "I would like that...but what am I going to do?" Despite the emotions this conjured inside of me, I was able to put on my "social work" hat and prepare this client for self-advocacy by informing her that, as the birth mother, she could go to the courthouse in the morning and petition for a three-day hearing to appeal the judge's decision, explaining that that is her right and it would give her the chance to share her side of the story and provide evidence that she was mentally capable of caring for her baby. This seemed to relieve her and she agreed to do so, but this didn't take away from the traumatic experience of having to place her 5-day-old baby into the arms of someone else and watch them drive away.