

ISF PROTECTIVE SERVICES INVESTIGATION SUMMARY - NO PREPONDERANCE

PS Case Name: **BARB ATWOOD**
 Load Number: **62000109**

PS Case #: **X2394925P**
 Complaint Date: **06/14/05**

Address: **13613 THORNAPPLE GRANT MI 49327-**
 Phone Number: **2318340067**

Log Number: **0012395**
 Category: **5**

Household Member Names	Rel. Code	Per. Ind.	Birthdate	Sex	Race	Native American	
						Y	N
ATWOOD BARB	SE	P	12/12/1960	F	1	—	—
ATWOOD TIMOTHY	SP	P	08/11/1956	M	1	—	—
KEAST ALYSSA	GC	V	01/22/2000	F	1	—	—
KEAST AMBER	GC	V	08/18/2002	F	1	—	—

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ALLEGATIONS

The allegations stated in the original complaint are:

	Alleged	Preponderance
Physical Abuse	—	—
Sexual Abuse	—	—
Mental Injury	—	—
Physical Neglect	—	—
Medical Neglect	—	—
Failure to Protect	—	—
Improper Supervision	—	—
Abandonment	—	—

Physical Exam? Yes () No (X)

Referred to LE/PA? Yes () No (X)

Hours to Commencement of Investigation: **1**

If not 24 hrs., why not? _____

Was face-to-face contact made within 72 hrs.? (X) ()

If not, why not? _____

ALLEGATION COMMENTS:

RP REPORTS THAT BARB ATWOOD THREW AMBER KEAST INTO A WALL. RP ALSO REPORTS THAT THERE IS A 19 YEAR OLD MALE LIVING IN THE HOME WHO IS PHYSICALLY DISCIPLINING AMBER AND ALYSSA. RP REPORTS THAT THE ATWOOD'S ARE "MEAN" TO THE KIDS.

FINDINGS	Yes	No
A. Previous Complaints (If yes, summarize) (the nature and disposition of previous) (complaints, including dates)	—	X
B. Parental substance abuse suspected	—	X
C. Neonatal drug exposure suspected	—	X
D. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome suspected	—	X
E. Criminal history check requested	—	X
F. Has a child been removed from the home before	—	X
G. Based on the accumulation of findings, there is a preponderance of evidence that abuse and/or neglect occurred	—	X

DISPOSITION: NO PREPONDERANCE

20 - NO EVIDENCE

Date of Transfer to Foster Care: _____
 Foster Care Worker Number : _____

FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY OF MICHIGAN PROTECTIVE SERVICES INVESTIGATION SUMMARY

Case Name: First Barb	Last Atwood	Case Number X2394925P	Referral Date 6/14/05
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INQUIRY INTO AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MADE? YES NO IF NOT, WHY NOT?

CHECKED ON PREVIOUS ADDRESSES WHEN INTERVIEWING THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN? YES NO

REQUIRED MEDICAL EXAMINATION

A) Check all that apply:

- Suspected sexual abuse
- Indication of serious or repeated injury due to CA/N
- Child appears malnourished or needing medical attention
- Injuries not viewed or photographed due to visual assessment restrictions
- Immobile Infant with marks or bruises
- Child under 5, or handicapped, or developmentally disabled and:
 - Explanation of injuries is suspicious
 - There are unusual bruises or marks
 - Child is fearful of caregivers or is withdrawn, exhibiting anxiety
 - There was serious injury or death of a sibling (past or recent)

B) Was a medical examination obtained?

- Yes
- No, none of the above factors apply
- No, other (explain):

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REQUIRED ASSESSMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION?

Check all that apply

- Sexual Abuse Referral
- Serious Physical Abuse
- Suspected substance abuse by caretaker
- Drug Exposed Infant
- Suspected Domestic Violence
- Unlicensed Placement

Was an assessment of law enforcement information obtained?

- No, none of the above situations apply
- Yes, Results:

1. DOCUMENTATION DATES

Date Report is Dictated/Presented for Typing: 6/28/05 6/28/05
 Date Report Typed: 6/28/05

2. RECORD OF CONTACTS

Date of Contact	Person Contacted	Type of Contact
6/15/05	Daniel Morgan	E-mail from
6/15/05	Barb Atwood	F/F 13613 Thornapple, Grant
6/15/05	Timothy Atwood	F/F 13613 Thornapple, Grant
6/15/05	Alyssa Keast	F/F 13613 Thornapple, Grant
6/15/05	Amber Keast	F/F 13613 Thornapple, Grant
6/15/05	Robert Atwood	F/F 13613 Thornapple, Grant
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
6/17/05	Brian Vanderzalm	E-mail from

6/20/05	Brian Vanderzalm	E-mail from
6/22/05	Sandy Terwillegar, MA	Psychological results received from
6/28/05	Kathy Sholty	F/F 1018 Newell, White Cloud

INTERVIEWED	YES	NO	IF NOT, WHY NOT	This document includes the identity of the reporting person in a Children's Protective Services case. The Michigan Child Protective Law, Public Act 238 of 1975, allows sharing this information between Children's Protective Services and law enforcement. Note: however, that Section 5 of the law states the identity of a reporting person shall be CONFIDENTIAL subject to disclosure only with the consent of that person by judicial process.
ALL CARETAKERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
ALLEGED VICTIM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
ALL SIBLINGS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
ALLEGED PERPETRATOR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

3. VERIFICATION OF CHILD WELL-BEING

THIS WORKER CONFIRMED THE WELL-BEING OF:

Child's Name	How?	Date?	Location?	Whereabouts if not with caretaker?
Alyssa & Amber Keast	F/F	6/15/05	13613 Thornapple, Grant	Home of Barb and Tim Atwood

4. FINDINGS: See Findings on cover sheet. Look below for narrative on A. Previous Complaints and G. Evidence.

A. Previous Complaints Summary:

Barb and Timothy Atwood are the maternal grandparents of Alyssa and Amber Keast. They have no prior history with Children's Protective Services. The minor children had been placed with the Atwood's as a relative placement after being removed of the care of their mother, Erica Keast due to neglect.

G. Investigative Findings Comments:



Face/face contact was made with Barb Atwood, Timothy Atwood, Robert Atwood, Alyssa Keast, and Amber Keast on 6/15/05 at the residence of 13613 Thornapple, Grant. The Atwood's welcomed this writer into their home and stated that they had expected a visitor today, as the minor children's mother became upset the evening of 6/13/05 and from past experience with Ms. Keast, they expected trouble. Mr. Atwood stated that Erica became upset after calling to see the children on the evening of 6/13/05 and being told that it wasn't a good time (it was bedtime). It was reported that Erica is also upset because her boyfriend, Richard, is not supposed to see the children. Erica was insistent on seeing the children and the Atwood's stated that they gave in and allowed contact. Erica came over to the Atwood's from her apartment, which is located in an area of the garage. Erica was upset which also upset the minor children. Reportedly, Amber began to throw a fit and Mr. Atwood told her to go to the corner. Amber did not do as her grandfather had asked and Ms. Atwood went over and picked her up and put her in the corner. Erica's behavior was so out of control according to the Atwoods that they decided it best that Erica return to the home of her boyfriend and not live in the apartment on their property. She left the residence and went to the trailer where she is currently residing with ~~Richard~~ when Children's Protective Services became involved. He reports that the children's behavior becomes out of control when Erica is around and they had been allowing liberal visitation with their mother. The Atwood's even admit to allowing Erica to take the children over to the trailer to watch movies and go swimming unsupervised which was in violation of the agreement with foster care. Because of the trouble that the Atwoods feel that Erica is causing, they now state that they will follow the rules set forth by Brian Vanderzalm, Department of Human Services.

The 19-year-old that was referred to in the referral is the Atwood's son. Their son, Robert Atwood, denies physically disciplining the children. He reports that the children have always been around him and his parents and that he is not responsible for their care and/or maintenance. Robert reports that he has always lived in the home of his parents and was residing in the home when the home study was approved to allow the Atwoods to have the children reside with them.

An attempt was made to interview Alyssa and Amber Keast using the forensic interview protocol. This writer was unable to ascertain if either minor child could distinguish between a truth and a lie. Both minor children are young, ages 3 and 1. Alyssa, especially, appears to be behind with regard to speech. Neither child appeared to remember the incident, which resulted in involvement with Children's Protective Services. While at the home, the children interacted well with the grandparents. Again, besides the current concern of possible physical abuse, there is concern that the Atwood's were not following the guidelines set forth by the Newaygo County Department of Human Services. Based on Mr. Atwood's admission to illegal usage of marijuana and their admission to allowing unsupervised visits with Erica, the children will be moved to another relative care placement.

5. CONCLUSION: CATEGORY IV. No Preponderance

Physical abuse of Amber Keast by her grandmother, Barb Atwood, is not supported by preponderance of evidence. It could not be proved if the allegations of physical abuse were true or if Erica, the children's mother, was attempting to retaliate against her parents because of their unwillingness to allow her liberal, unsupervised visits. In any case, Mr. Atwood admits to marijuana usage as well as not following the supervised visit schedule set up by the foster care worker. Based on the latest concerns, the minor children will be removed from the Atwood home placed with their Uncle and Aunt, Tim and Kim Atwood at 6433 W 104th St., Fremont.

The Children's Protective Services case is being closed and denied. Direct supportive services will continue to be offered through the foster care case.

WORKER SIGNATURE AND DATE

[Handwritten Signature] 6/28/05

Reviewed and Approved
SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE AND DATE

[Handwritten Signature] 7/11/05

CONFIDENTIAL

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