

Adoption Assistance

The Jenkins Family Case Study

Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins have been fostering three siblings, Max, age nine, and two-year old twins, Jericah and James. Max was placed in their home first. The agency tried to reunite him with his birth mother twice in two years. The birth mother continued using drugs, could not maintain a job, and did not have consistent housing.

Max has had chronic ear infections and has had tubes put in his ears twice. He has an ear infection even now, after the second set of tubes was placed. He has difficulty hearing sometimes and complains of his ears feeling “clogged.” He was prenatally exposed to amphetamines, which was confirmed at birth through drug test results of mom and baby.

Jericah and James were placed in this home after their premature birth at 35 weeks. They were prenatally exposed to methamphetamines and spent a total of five weeks in the NICU at a local hospital after being born. The Jenkins family visited the infants in the hospital, attempting to bond with the babies. James had RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) when he was two months old. He has had almost constant respiratory infections since then. The doctor says that he may always have them. Jericah has almost constant ear infections. The twins had some early motor skills delays but appear to be on target now. They attend daycare every day because both mom and dad work out of the home. Ms. Jenkins is a special needs pre-school teacher and Mr. Jenkins works at a local non-profit organization.

Max, Jericah, and James are now available for adoption. Mrs. Jenkins makes approximately 28,000 annually and Mr. Jenkins has an annual salary of 36,000. They do not have any additional children to be considered.

Questions:

1. Does the family qualify for:
 - a. Title IV-E Adoption Assistance
 - b. State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy
 - c. Non-recurring Adoption Expenses Subsidy
 - d. Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy
2. Would a sibling group of three qualify for subsidy at the time of adoption?
3. Is it possible to receive a subsidy of zero dollars?
4. Is it possible for you as the assessor to advocate for a family regarding subsidy within your agency?