

# Case 5 – Victor Jimenez

**Youth:** Victor Jimenez

**Gender:** Male

**Ethnicity:** Hispanic

**School:** Court and  
Community School

**Primary Language:**  
English, fluent in Spanish

**Age** 16

**SSN:** 123-00-  
4567

## Family Information

**Mother:** Maria Jimenez

**Address:** 56 Charter Way  
Stockton, CA

**Ethnicity:** Hispanic

**Age:** 32

**Primary Language:**  
Spanish/Some English

**Employment:** Farm worker

**Father:** Jose Mendoza

**Address:** Unknown, Mexico

**Ethnicity:** Hispanic

**Age:** 35

**Primary Language:**  
Spanish

**Employment:** Unknown

**DOB:**

Unknown

## Sibling Information:

**Sibling Name:** Johnny Jimenez **Age:** 13

**Sibling Name:** Julia Jimenez **Age:** 12

**Sibling Name:** Christina Jimenez **Age:** 11

## Current Referral/Circumstances:

Victor Jimenez is currently in Juvenile Hall as a result of violation of his probation. While in Juvenile Hall, Victor attacked another detained minor and is now facing new charges of assault.

Since his original order for placement a year ago, Victor has been in seven placement homes and treatment programs. He ran away from his last placement after only two weeks.

## **Prior Juvenile Probation History:**

Victor was arrested for the first time at the age of 15 for stealing a vehicle. While these charges were being adjudicated, Victor was charged with several batteries at school and in the community and one count of robbery. As a WIC 300 dependent in the out-of-home care, he was placed on formal probation after a Welfare and Institutions Code 241.1 hearing.

Probation officers tried placing Victor in all local treatment alternatives, including a brief effort to place Victor with his mother with wrap-around services. This effort was unsuccessful turning around Victor's delinquent behaviors and he began hanging around with Norte gang members before being taken into custody in Juvenile Hall.

## **Child Welfare/Juvenile Dependency Information:**

Child Welfare Services filed a non-detained WIC 300 petition on behalf of Victor and his three siblings and all four children were declared dependents of the Juvenile Court in the care and custody of their mother, Maria Jimenez. The family was offered a case plan of Family Maintenance Services to help the mother stabilize her household sufficiently to allow the children to remain in her care.

Victor's family has been the focus of CWS attention since he was 8 years old. The family has been referred to CWS 36 times in the past seven years, with repeated reports for general neglect. While condition in the mother's home never met the threshold of placing the children at imminent risk of physical harm, conditions of chronic neglect over the seven-year period caused CWS officials to file an non-detained petition to formalize supervision of the children's care. While the mother's care of the household and younger children had improved somewhat during the first three months of services, Victor's behaviors escalated, requiring that he be placed in out of home care.

Victor was removed from the care and custody of his mother 9 months ago due to his escalating delinquent behaviors at school and in the community. While under the supervision of CWS, he ran away from several foster and group home settings. Victor has a pattern of running away when faced with limits and structure of these out-of-home care settings. He has a poor school attendance and performance record. He has gotten into several fights at school and has gotten into trouble for his defiance with school officials.

## **Interviews with Minor:**

Victor was largely uncooperative with his interview with the court-intake officer. He stated that the most recent assault was warranted by self-defense as the other minor was from another gang and threatened him harm.

Victor expressed himself sullenly and with anger during the interview. He stated that school officials are all against him because he is Hispanic.

Victor stated that his mother just doesn't "get it" in terms of what it takes to be a man in the Stockton community. Victor stated that his actions and associations are largely required in order to keep himself safe in a rough community. He stated that he would like to move to Mexico to live with his father.

Victor complained to his probation officer that he is having a lot of pain in his right leg. Victor broke his leg during a automobile accident during a police pursuit when he stole a car.

## **Interviews with Parents**

Victor's mother Maria Jimenez, was born in Southern California and she moved to the San Joaquin Valley when Victor was two years old. She has an 8<sup>th</sup> grade education and has worked as a farm laborer in San Joaquin County fields for many years, working from 6:00 AM until sunset six days each week.

She maintains a small subsidized apartment in Stockton and Maria supports her children with her farm worker job and some Social Services benefits, including Medi-Cal and food stamps. As a result of her long hours in the field, Maria has trouble adequately supervising her children. She has no criminal record.

Maria is an even-tempered and caring mother who has difficulty in properly supervising Victor, especially as he developed more sophisticated criminal behaviors and began hanging out with gang members. She keeps an orderly home and does her best to provide basics for her children.

Victor's father was born in Mexico and came to the United States as an undocumented farm worker. When Victor was 6 years old and his sister Christina just a newborn, Victor's father was detained by immigration authorities and deported to Oaxaca, Mexico. He has never returned and has not been in contact with Maria or the children since he was deported. The department does not have much information regarding his potential whereabouts, except that his hometown is Oaxaca City, Oaxaca.

With the sudden loss of his father, Victor became angry and took his frustrations out on his younger siblings and his peers and over the past several years, Victor has gotten into increasingly serious trouble in the community, engaging in theft, assaults and vandalism.

Maria's own extended family is spread out over California, Nevada and New Mexico. Her parents are deceased, but she has 10 siblings who are migrant farm workers throughout the western United States. Maria has little time to engage in activities other than work and caring for her children, so she has few support connections.

Maria is particularly concerned about Victor's education. She stated that she recognizes that her own economic struggles are largely due to her lack of education and she wants Victor to succeed in school. She stated, he gets special education classes for reading and writing and school officials report that he struggles to stay on task in classes.

Victor has excelled in cooking and industrial arts classes and he does well when engaged with learning that involves "doing." Unfortunately, he often gets suspended from participation in these classes due to his impulsive and aggressive behaviors toward his peers.

Victor is an excellent boxer and has befriended a gym owner in Stockton who has mentored his development in boxing and allows him to work out at his facility free of charge.

## **Interview with Child Welfare worker**

The Child Welfare Worker assigned to work with Victor's mother and siblings was interviewed in order to complete the assessment.

In the view of the CWW, since his father's deportation, Victor has been largely on his own, using associations in the community to deal with a lack of basic resources and the gap in male mentoring.

While Maria does the best she can with her children, she has never fully acculturated to California life, learning only limited English and never getting a high school education. She is working hard to earn enough income to feed and basically provide for her children. She tends to be passive and sets poor limits for her children.

All three younger siblings have begun to have behavioral problems at school and in the community. So far, their involvement with law enforcement has been limited, but the worker is concerned that the siblings are following in the pattern of their older brother and their mother does not have the capability or resources to adequately supervise them.

Maria and her children are approaching their 12-month hearing regarding progress on their Family Maintenance case plan. While the mother has made some progress in development of parenting skills related to supervising and setting limits for her children, the CWW is concerned that once CWS closes the case, that family conditions may deteriorate.

The CWW also stated her concern about Victor's diabetes. His blood sugar is frequently high and fluctuates wildly and Victor uses insulin more in response to his uncontrolled diet of candy, soda and other sweets. Victor is often sleepy or excessively thirsty.

Victor, who was identified as needing special education services, does not attend school regularly enough to benefit from services. When he is in school, he is frequently in trouble for fighting or defiance.