

Client information (Ramona Deng)

I came to the US as a refugee. I live with my daughter, Ava, and do not have any other family in the area. Ava and I were abused by Ava's father. I agreed to a CHIPS (Child in Need of Protection and/or Services) order for services for me and Ava, protection from Ava's father, and assistance with alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA) assistance.

My refugee program partnered with a local church. A member of the church, Paul Samaritan, allowed me to borrow the car for errands when he was away on vacation. I usually tried to find a friend with a license to drive, but drove myself when I had to. Ms. Hernandez was willing to give me a ride that day.

The officer told the CPS worker he was concerned about drugs, the car seat, and that no adult was available to take Ava. CPS sent a social worker and took Ava to a temporary foster home.

I have an addiction to heroin and smoke marijuana on a regular basis. I suffer from chronic back pain. I cannot afford to see a doctor or pay for prescriptions. Mr. Samaritan had a similar back pain issue and took prescription medication for it. I previously found an old prescription bottle with Oxycodone pills for Mr. Samaritan in his car. I took some of the pills and found they worked better for extreme pain than the marijuana.

After I used up the pills that I found in the car, I began purchasing pills on the street and transitioned to heroin. I used heroin when my back pain and stress were very high and used marijuana for pain and anxiety nearly every day. I want help with my addiction but was worried if I would lose Ava or be deported.

I have not been compliant with all of my CHIPS conditions. The social worker wants me to get a job, but I am not able to find steady employment. The social worker always tells me that my house is not clean enough. I still have contact with Ava's father, even though my social worker says there is a not contact condition with the CHIPS case. I sometimes miss my weekly random drug tests and weekly appointments with my social worker.

My main goals are to avoid deportation and losing Ava. I am scared about returning to Sudan and don't want Ava to grow up without a mother like I did.