

Case 1 Britta and Kevin

Britta (20 years of age) and Kevin (32 years of age) are registered by the gynaecologist at the hospital. Britta is now three months pregnant. The gynaecologist indicates that they now live on a campsite and that they need help because they cannot stay there. On this campsite there live a lot of other Polish people who all work at a Dutch production company via a temporary employment agency. Kevin has a contract that expires May 2016. Britta has a contract with a termination date of late August 2015. She does not expect this contract to be extended as she is expecting her baby the 14th of October.

At this moment they live in a cottage with four other Polish people. They all pay 400 euro's rent each month per person. Britta and Kevin state they did not plan to become pregnant but that they welcome the kid with open arms. On the other hand they are very worried whether they can find a new place for themselves. They do not have any savings and when Britta loses her income they only have 1200 euros a month to spend.

Case 2 Polish family

This case has been notified by the school-social work because of problems with the eldest daughter. During a home visit it turned out that there are a lot of problems within this family system.

A family: Father of 42 years old, has been living and working in the Netherlands for ten years. Approximately one year ago, his wife (38 years old) and their four kids (aged 14, 10, 8 and 5 years old) came over from Poland. They barely speak Dutch. They live in a rent House in Apeldoorn where they pay 1000 euro's a month on rent and 400 euros on other fixed costs. Recently, the father has become ill, due to an allergic reaction. Therefore, he cannot work. At home there are a lot of tensions. During the home visit, the social worker notices that the father has drunk too much and is physically aggressive towards his wife. Because the father momentarily is on sick leave, they have less income. They are not capable of paying their fixed costs and are in desperate need of money, otherwise the water is shut down. There is no money for groceries and clothing whatsoever. Both the mother and the father seem desperate, and they have no idea how they can solve their problems.

Case 3 Sophia

Sophia is 23 years of age. She has a 1,5 year old daughter. She has been born in Romania. Through a Romanian boyfriend, whom she had met on a holiday she ended up in The Hague in the Netherlands, when she was 18 years old. This boyfriend turned out to be a loverboy. With physical violence he forced her into prostitution. She worked for him for two years. One day he was arrested on the account of loverboy practices and he now is in prison. Sophia is still very afraid of him.

When she was 20 years old, she fled from The Hague to Apeldoorn. There she met a man. This man is a refugee from Afghanistan without a permit to stay in The Netherlands. In that period (age 20 – 22) she worked as a cleaning lady via a temporary employment agency and rented a room via this employment

agency. Around the age of 22 she became pregnant and her employer gave her the opportunity to return to Romania to give birth. They promised her a job, might she return. In the meanwhile, her Afghan boyfriend and the father of her child had left without letting her know where he was going.

When Sophia was 7 months pregnant she returned to Romania and remained there with a friend. She had no contact with her family whatsoever as they had told her they did not want to see her anymore. After she gave birth to her child she returned to the Netherlands, and she took her daughter with her. The employment agency, however, was bankrupt and the room she had rented before was given away to other people. She went to The Hague where she stayed with a friend for a couple of months. This friend still worked in the prostitution business and Sophie was scared that she would end up being a prostitute again. She then returned to Apeldoorn with her daughter and slept with her daughter in the park for several nights. Some youngsters talked to her and found out that there was something wrong. They went to a youth care worker and then social work got involved.

Case 4: Najiya and Hassan

Najiya and Hassan are refugees, originally from Afghanistan. They have stayed in the past 4 years in a refugee centre. Now they live in Apeldoorn, with their two kids (3 and 1 year old). Recently they have received a residence permit and now they are allowed to work. Hassan has a lot of physical problems. Najiya was in Afghanistan a pharmacist. She has a degree, good papers, but they are not recognized in the Netherlands. She now suffers a depression. For several years she was not allowed to work, but now, since they have a permit, she desperately wants to work. Both she and her husband think that working will be good for her, she will languish at home. They have agreed that Najiya will be the working partner and Hassan will stay home and take care of the children.

The general practitioner sends this couple to the social work office, because he was worried about their mental health. He also believes it would be better for Najiya to work, because now she feels depressed and has no energy whatsoever. Najiya and Hassan find themselves in a hopeless situation and have no idea how to put the wheel in motion.