



**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY (IS)**  
**Child In-Home Investigation**  
**(without Reporter Information)**

Case Name Candice BERNSTEIN	Intake Number 2015-121408-01	Intake Sub-Type In-Home	County Palm Beach
Date/Time Intake Received 05/04/2015 2:07 PM	Date/Time Screening Decision 05/04/2015 3:17 PM	Protective Investigator Bourgoine, Leigh	
Date/Time Investigation Closed 07/03/2015 9:14 PM		Approving Protective Investigative Supervisor Gray, Meredith E	

**I. Allegation Narrative(s)**

Sequence Type Initial	Date/Time Received 05/04/2015 2:07 PM	Response Priority 24 Hours
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**Narrative**

The mother and father are using drugs and alcohol. The parents are using marijuana and prescription narcotics. There are concerns that the father is not in a good mental state when he is under the influence of drugs and alcohol. The father is delusional and makes all types of erratic statements towards the children. The father believes that he will be murdered or poisoned. He also believes that his car will be bombed. The father makes excuses on why the children can't attend a certain school. The father threatens the children and tells them things about their grandparents being murdered. The mother and father were being supported by the paternal grandparents who since has passed away. The grandmother passed in 2010 and the grandfather in 2012. The mother and father do not work and it is unknown how they are supporting their family or drug habits. The father tends to blame a lot of things on money. In the past, the father was admitted to a psychiatric hospital.

**Field Narrative****II. Victim(s)**

Name BERNSTEIN, JACOB	DOB 01/01/1999	Age 16	Gender Male	Race White	Disabilities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Maltreatment	Findings		Incident Date		Caregiver Responsible
Substance Misuse - Alcohol	No Indicator				Fatality No
Name BERNSTEIN, JACOB	DOB 01/01/1999	Age 16	Gender Male	Race White	Disabilities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Maltreatment	Findings		Incident Date		Caregiver Responsible
Substance Misuse - Prescription Drugs	No Indicator				Fatality No
Name BERNSTEIN, JOSHUA	DOB 08/27/1997	Age 17	Gender Male	Race White	Disabilities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Maltreatment	Findings		Incident Date		Caregiver Responsible
Substance Misuse - Alcohol	No Indicator				Fatality No

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Name BERNSTEIN, JOSHUA	DOB 08/27/1997	Age 17	Gender Male	Race White	Disabilities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Maltreatment Substance Misuse - Prescription Drugs	Findings No Indicator		Incident Date	Caregiver Responsible	Fatality No
Name Bernstein, Daniel	DOB 11/26/2002	Age 12	Gender Male	Race Unknown	Disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Maltreatment Substance Misuse - Alcohol	Findings No Indicator		Incident Date	Caregiver Responsible	Fatality No
Name Bernstein, Daniel	DOB 11/26/2002	Age 12	Gender Male	Race Unknown	Disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Maltreatment Substance Misuse - Prescription Drugs	Findings No Indicator		Incident Date	Caregiver Responsible	Fatality No

**III. Other Participant(s)**

Name Bernstein, Eliot	DOB 09/30/1963	Age 51	Gender Male	Race White	Role Parent/Caregiver
Bernstein, Candice	10/09/1972	42	Female	White	Parent/Caregiver

Date Last Updated: 07/03/2015

Last Updated By: Bourgoine, Leigh

**IV. What is the extent of the maltreatment?**

**What surrounding circumstances accompany the alleged maltreatment, precipitating events, history?**

Investigation is being closed no indicators for substance misuse- prescription drugs, and substance misuse- alcohol. The children all denied the allegations. The parents refused to go on a drug screen however this CPI was at the home on numerous occasions and never witnessed the parents appearing to be under the influence, or any indication in the home that their any any issues with alcohol or drugs. The parents also denied any drug or alcohol abuse in the home. The father is currently involved in several court actions involving family members and believes this to be retaliation because of the court ongoing court cases. Collateral had no concerns for the children's safety and also stated that she believes that the report was received was of retaliatory nature as she is with the family often and has never seen any indication herself that there is anything going on with the family in the home. A neighbor collateral did express concerns however they were more so rumors that she had heard from the prior owners of the home. LE closed out their investigation unfounded for abuse or neglect. Grids pose no concerns for child safety. Risk is low; no further intervention warranted by the Department at this time.

On 5/4/15 the hotline received a report alleging the following:

The mother and father are using drugs and alcohol. The parents are using marijuana and prescription narcotics. There are concerns that the father is not in a good mental state when he is under the influence of drugs and alcohol. The father is delusional and makes all types of erratic statements towards the children. The father believes that he will be murdered or poisoned. He also believes that his car will be bombed. The father makes excuses on why the children can't attend a certain school. The father threatens the children and tells them things about their grandparents being murdered. The mother and father were being supported by the paternal grandparents who since has passed away. The grandmother passed in 2010 and the grandfather in 2012. The mother and father do not work and it is unknown how they are supporting their family or drug

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habits. The father tends to blame a lot of things on money. In the past, the father was admitted to a psychiatric hospital.

The father had 2 "attorneys" on the phone while we spoke with him. The father called 911 while we were at Omni Middle School on 5/5. He then called back and said he didn't want an officer to come to the home, he just wanted to speak with an officer. At first he would not allow this CPI into the home or the speak with the children. When this CPI went back to the home alone, later on 5/5 he was much more cooperative and stated he just didn't want police in the home.

The father Eliot reported that he called 911, as he was advised by his attorney to do so and had a court order stating to do so from a federal judge. He provided a copy of the order that stated if he felt he was in immediate danger to contact 911. The Boca PD officers explained to him what 911 is for and if he wanted to just make a report to contact the non-emergency line. Eliot stated that he filed a "whistle blower" petition while in court, and thinks he is being sought after for whistle blowing on attorneys and judges in local community and other locations in the US. He thinks false allegations were made because of this. He stated that he does think he and his family are in immediate danger because "I do not know when they will murder me, poison me, or try to blow up my car". He denied having any mental health history or diagnosis. He denied ever being in a psychiatric facility. He stated to call Andrew Panzer with PBSO about his father's "murder investigation". He denied he or his wife being on any medications. He denied he or Candice smoking marijuana. He stated that his parents died and their estate and trust money are tied up in litigation and there were "documents forged". He stated that there are a number of court cases for this, the murder investigation and patents of his which were "stolen". He reported that his father had an autopsy and the Coroner's report done showed he may have been poisoned. He stated that the car bombing happened in Boynton in 2006. He is not currently employed but works on "preserving his patents". He stated that he and Candice were working for a company that was "shut down by the estate". He refused to go on a drug screen.

The mother Candice denied using marijuana and denied either she or her husband being on medications. She denied any history of alcohol or drug abuse, or treatment history. She denied having any personal mental health history and denied the father having any mental health history. She stated that the paternal grandfather died unexpectedly and an autopsy was done. The paternal uncle made allegations that the grandfather's girlfriend murdered him. The coroner's report showed elevated levels of arsenic in the grandfather's tissue samples. She stated that there is an ongoing murder investigation. She reported that everyone is fighting over the money that was left by the grandparents. There were 5 children; 2 disinherited, as they received the family businesses. There are a lot of legal issues involved. The mother reported she and the father are representing themselves in these matters.

They think Ted (the paternal uncle) called in the report because of the ongoing legal issues. She stated that the car bombing happened in 2004-2005; sheriff's notified the family that the car exploded while at the shop. They are also involved with the Supreme Court about patent cases for the father's inventions. She denied any history of Baker Acts for her or her husband. She reported that neither she nor the children have any medical issues. She refused to go on a drug screen.

who resides to the family reported that the parents don't work, and she believes the family had money, like trust funds and they live off that. She believes she has smelled marijuana coming from the home. She heard from the previous owner of the home the family resides in that the father is a druggie. She stated that the children do whatever they want and the parents "have no idea about responsibility". She then cited an issue about the children going through a fence to St. Andrews as to why the children do whatever they want. The children used to attend St. Andrews and don't anymore. She stated that the family doesn't take care of the house or property.

Josh denied marijuana use or use of medications by his parents. He reported his parents drink socially like at a party or dinner. He has a good relationship with his parents. He reported that his parents have a good relationship with each other and he denied any domestic violence occurring in the home. He stated that he is not sure exactly what happened with the car bombing. He stated that his grandmother died of natural causes and his grandfather died of heart problems. He denied hearing his father say that anyone is trying to kill him and doesn't believe anyone will. He denied witnessing either of his parents under the influence. He stated that his father hasn't threatened the family, he feels safe at home and then he said, "this is my safe place".

Jacob reported that his parents drink on occasion and he denied witnessing either of them intoxicated. He is unaware of whether his parents are on any medications. He described his father as "unique", and a very smart man. He stated that his father does worry about the family. He has said things about his car being bombed or being poisoned in the past. His paternal

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grandparents passed away from natural causes a few years ago and his father was heart broken. He denied the father threatening the family in any way and stated that he has a good relationship with his parents. His parents have a good relationship with each other and he denied any domestic violence in the home. He denied seeing either of his parents appearing under the influence. He stated that his father was a victim of a car bombing over 10 years ago. He knows that this happened because he has seen pictures of the car. He is unaware of whether his father has ever been Baker Acted. He reported that there are no problems at home, and he feels safe at home.

a family friend reported that she has known the family for the past 7 years. They met at St. Andrews School in Boca Raton and her children are the same ages as the children in the current investigation and are friends. Her children spend a lot of time with the Bernstein's in their home. She reported that she sees the family often. The children are always clean, dressed appropriately and free of marks or bruises. They have no behavioral issues. She reported that the parents drink socially like at a dinner party and never to excess. She reported that she is unaware of any drug use in the home and would not allow her children to be around that if she ever thought that was the case with this family. She reported that the father Eliot has uncovered fraud in the courts and this is retaliation from that. She is shocked about the allegations received. She reported that she has no concerns for the children in the home with the parents. If anything what the paternal uncle has done to the children has been damaging as he is keeping the litigation going and money from the family which is theirs. The kids are no longer attending St. Andrews because of this.

Danny denied all of the allegations in the report. And stated that he feels safe in the home with his family.

Family has no prior history with the Department.

Grids pose no negative impact upon child safety.

LE unfounded their report for abuse or neglect.

#### **V. Safety Analysis Summary**

The children are safe in the home and no impending danger threats have been identified which meet the safety threshold. The children are all verbal and visible in the community; they are able to tell someone if something happens in the home. Investigation is being closed no indicators for substance misuse- prescription drugs, and substance misuse- alcohol. The children all denied the allegations. The parents refused to go on a drug screen however this CPI was at the home on numerous occasions and never witnessed the parents appearing to be under the influence, or any indication in the home that there are any issues with alcohol or drugs. The parents also denied any drug or alcohol abuse in the home. The father is currently involved in several court actions involving family members and believes this to be retaliation because of the court ongoing court cases. Collateral had no concerns for the children's safety and also stated that she believes that the report was received was of retaliatory nature as she is with the family often and has never seen any indication herself that there is anything going on with the family in the home. Collateral did express concerns however they were more so rumors that she had heard from the prior owners of the home. LE closed out their investigation unfounded for abuse or neglect. Grids pose no concerns for child safety. Risk is low; no further intervention warranted by the Department at this time.