

## **Case Simulation 1: Immediate Risk Removed**

### **Fact Pattern:**

- DCS received a referral after Ethan, a 9-year-old boy, was found unsupervised in a busy park at night.
- The DCS investigation revealed Ethan's mother, who was the primary caregiver, was abusing alcohol and left Ethan alone multiple times.
- There were concerns of ongoing neglect but not physical abuse. Ethan missed school on a regular basis. Ethan reported his mother slept most of the day and he had to find food to eat on his own. Ethan's clothes and body had not been cleaned in some time. And the home was very dirty.
- DCS removed Ethan on an emergency basis and placed him in foster care.
- Mother immediately engaged in outpatient substance abuse treatment. She has been compliant with random drug and alcohol screens — all negative. She has attended parenting classes and participated in weekly supervised visits with Ethan, which have gone well. Mother has moved in with her own parents (maternal grandparents), providing a more stable environment.
- There is no criminal case pending.
- Ethan expresses a desire to go home to his mother.

**Discuss whether the immediate risk to the child has been removed to allow the child to return home (family to reunify) safely with continued oversight; create a transition plan from custodial to non-custodial.**