

Role: Attending physician

You are the emergency room attending physician during a very busy evening. Your resident just told you about an infant who rolled off a bed and who has a non-displaced linear skull fracture. You accompany the resident back to the patient's room and introduce yourself to the parent. Your let your resident tell the parent about the CT head imaging results, however you are already thinking about how you must report the case to child protective services (CPS).

The exercise starts with the resident telling the parents the result of the CT. Then you, who weren't with the resident when they first time your interviewed and examined the baby, will ask the parent to repeat the story of how the baby was injured. You will then ask the bedside RN to call for the ER social worker and inform the parent that you need to admit their baby to the PICU for monitoring. Once the social worker arrives however, you will tell the parent that due to the nature of the injury, the team will be reporting the case to CPS. You hope that the social worker will take over to explain the process to the parent, because you need to get back to clearing your board and taking care of more acutely ill patients.