

**Trainer Handout 3-1A:
Mary Mason/Paul Mason: Additional Information**

Mary Mason

Mrs. Mason admitted she knew Bobby had diaper rash but didn't realize how bad. She knew both boys had sores on their legs and arms but thought they were insect bites and was treating them with an ointment she got at the grocery store. She said that she had no idea they had impetigo.

Mrs. Mason was the second of 3 children. At age 2, she and her siblings went to live with her maternal grandparents. They were very strict, made her work a lot and beat her for misbehaving. Her grandmother became ill when she was 9 and she assumed the responsibility of taking care of her. When she was 12 her grandmother died so she went to live with her mother. She finished high school and attended Community College.

Mrs. Mason met her husband when she was 18 years old. They married 2 years later when she became pregnant with John. Before she knew what was happening, she was pregnant with Bobby. Now she is pregnant again and due in about 3 months. She is concerned about being able to care for 3 children in diapers. Mr. Mason seldom helps with the children. He is gone a lot because of his work and often goes out with his relatives at night. She gets lonesome, but thinks it might get better when the kids get older. She is not planning to have more children after this baby is born. That is, if she can convince Paul to have a vasectomy or at least let her use birth control.

Mrs. Mason reported that throughout their marriage Mr. Mason has continued to see other women. Although she doesn't have any proof, she suspects every woman that he talks with. They have a lot of conflict and have separated several times. However, she says she loves him and the children very much.

Although Mrs. Mason has her mother nearby, as well as her in-laws, she is pretty much alone when it comes to caring for the children as they don't seem too eager to baby-sit. Her family tries to stay out of her family's business. She would like to go to work or go back and finish college but she doesn't have anyone to take care of the children

Mrs. Mason has tried various means of discipline with John. Sometimes when she gets too angry with him she puts him in the bedroom and closes the door. Sometimes she spansks him. She describes him as very smart but a "real handful." He misbehaves a lot and seems to get into everything.

Bobby is described as "a little lazy" and "sleeps most of the time." He is 9 months old and still can't sit up on his own. He was premature. He is his father's favorite and is named after Mr. Mason's closest brother, Bobby. She did not like that because he is the brother who is always encouraging Mr. Mason to get into trouble.

Mrs. Mason is concerned that her husband is currently awaiting a court hearing on a DUI charge. She is afraid he will go to jail or have a big fine. Either way, the family will be seriously hurt financially.

Paul Mason

Mr. Mason stated that he is not sure how Bobby got such a serious “diaper rash.” He said that his wife has always been a good housekeeper and a good mother to the children. Lately he has noticed a change in her. He described the change as “Mary doesn’t have any energy” and reports being tired all the time. He has also come home after work and found her crying “for no reason.” When he questioned her, she told him that she was watching a sad movie or reading a sad story. He said that the house has been messy lately and the boys haven’t been as clean as before. He attributed this to John being so active and hard to deal with.

Mr. Mason was the youngest of 4 children. His mother raised him. When he was two, his father was executed for raping a 10 year old child. He doesn’t like to talk about this. When he was 15 he left home. He quit school in the twelfth grade because he was “tired of it.”

Mr. Mason stated that his mother did not remarry until three years ago, but she had boyfriends who were like stepfathers to him. He was never abuse or neglected by his mother or her boyfriends. He stated that he is very close to all his siblings and his mother.

When he was 19 he joined the army, and was honorably discharged after three years. He has worked as a pipe layer, roofer and maintenance man. He is a member of the Elks Club and goes there frequently with his brothers to have a few beers and play pool.

Mr. Mason stated that everything is fine between him and his wife. He denied having extra-marital relationships and said those stories were just rumors made up by some women who just wanted to get him in trouble with his wife. He stated that he and Mary have not had any fights of importance in the last couple of years.

Mr. Mason described John as “very active”, stating that John probably got that from him. He added that John was very bright and curious. Bobby is quieter and seems to always be observing things. He doesn’t do much and seems a bit slow. He admits that Bobby was a result of an unplanned pregnancy. Once they found out Mary was pregnant, they were very excited about the prospect of maybe having a little sister for John. Mr. Mason grew up in a big family and wants his children to have lots of brothers and sister.

According to Mr. Mason, the only thing that is causing stress in the family is being investigated by the agency. He says he loves his children and is excited about the upcoming birth of their baby.

Mr. Mason has been in trouble with the law a couple of times before, but only had to pay small fines. He was recently arrested for driving under the influence. He is anticipating a hearing soon. He says he is not too concerned, and thinks that because of his record and having never been to jail, he’ll probably get another fine.