Impending Danger Threat Scenarios – Answer Guide

1. The single mother of an infant is so depressed she sometimes does not get out of bed all day. The baby is left in her crib.
   **Best –** 3. One or both parents'/caregivers' behavior is dangerously impulsive or they will not/cannot control their behavior.

2. Parents are deeply in debt due to gambling. They are convinced the only solution is to win big, so they are gambling with the rent and food money. They have 3 small children. They face eviction and there is no food in the house.
   **Best –** 5. Family does not have or use resources necessary to assure the child’s basic needs.

3. The adolescent son in this family is dealing cocaine. The parents are unable to control his behavior. This includes people with weapons and people who are currently high coming in and out of the apartment at unpredictable times. There are younger children aged 4 and 6.
   **Best –** 10. Living arrangements seriously endanger the child’s physical health.

4. The mother’s boyfriend is frequently physically abusive to her. When this happens her 14 year old son tries to intervene and protect her.
   **Best –** 2. One or both parents/caregivers are violent.

5. The mother thinks the child looks just like her ex-husband with whom she has a very hostile relationship. She interprets his behavior as being “just like his father” and always intended to cause her pain.
   **Best –** 4. One or both parents/caregivers have extremely negative perceptions of the child.

6. The child has a metabolic disorder that requires a special diet. The father sees the child as just fussy about her food and says she can get used to eating the same food as the rest of the family.
   **Best –** 9. Child has exceptional needs which the parents/caregivers cannot or will not meet.

7. The child has severe welts from being disciplined with a belt. The parent says the child had it coming and expresses no concern for the child’s pain.
   **Best –** 7. One or both parents/caregivers intend(ed) to seriously hurt the child.

8. The single parent of an infant has not slept since the baby was born. She is very upset and says she doesn’t know what she’ll do to the child if this keeps up.
   **Best –** 6. One or both parents/caregivers fear they will maltreat child and/or request placement.
9. The mother left her children with a babysitter and has moved back with her boyfriend in another state.

**Best** – 1. No adult in the home will perform parental duties and responsibilities.

10. The parents think their 8 year old is unusually mature and can provide adequate care for the baby.

**Best** – 8. One or both parents/caregivers lack parenting knowledge, skills, or motivation necessary to assure the child’s basic needs are met.