

## *Understanding the Higher Rate of Poverty in the System*

Instead of expressing these feelings of abandonment and isolation, however, youth often act out in ways that may jeopardize the sustainability of their placements and lead to further isolation through multiple disrupted placements. Family engagement efforts can help stabilize a placement by providing important relationships and empowering the youth to maintain a sense of connection and relational permanence.

### **Activity: Examining Poverty vs. Neglect**

Consider the circumstances in which each of the following scenarios would and would not constitute a child safety issue. Complete the sentence for both “Yes, if . . .” and “No, if . . .”

#### **A family does not have a refrigerator. Is this a child safety issue?**

Yes, if . . . \_\_\_\_\_

No, if . . . \_\_\_\_\_

#### **A family lives in a rental unit with holes in the floor. Is this a child safety issue?**

Yes, if . . . \_\_\_\_\_

No, if . . . \_\_\_\_\_

#### **A family lives in a car. Is this a child safety issue?**

Yes, if . . . \_\_\_\_\_

No, if . . . \_\_\_\_\_

#### **A family does not have electricity. Is this a child safety issue?**

Yes, if . . . \_\_\_\_\_

No, if . . . \_\_\_\_\_

**A family does not have beds for their children. Is this a child safety issue?**

Yes, if . . . \_\_\_\_\_

No, if . . . \_\_\_\_\_

**A family does not have money to buy the mother's antidepressant medication. Is this a child safety issue?**

Yes, if . . . \_\_\_\_\_

No, if . . . \_\_\_\_\_

**A family does not have a crib for their infant. Is this a child safety issue?**

Yes, if . . . \_\_\_\_\_

No, if . . . \_\_\_\_\_

**A family has one parent who uses drugs. Is this a child safety issue?**

Yes, if . . . \_\_\_\_\_

No, if . . . \_\_\_\_\_