



The National Partnership for Community Leadership  
*"Strengthening Communities and Organizations to Serve People for the Future"*

## **CASE STUDY 1**

### **Frank and Cynthia**

Frank and Cynthia are 19 and engaged in romantic relationships with three people. They like each other, but both like the fact that they are seeing multiple people with no strings attached. Neither has finished high school and enjoys just having fun. Recently Cynthia informed Frank that she is pregnant and believes he is the father. Frank is unsure about this and wants Cynthia to get a blood test to see whether or not he is, in fact, the father, particularly since they both have been seeing and having sexual intercourse with multiple people. Cynthia visits the clinic and gets confirmation that Frank is the father of her unborn child. Neither Frank nor Cynthia loves each other enough to marry, and neither is interested in going further in the relationship. Neither thought about the child's care once they stopped seeing each other.

After they stopped seeing each other, Cynthia enrolled in the Healthy Start program, wants sole custody of their child, and is now receiving child support. Frank has never seen his child and believes Cynthia is engaged in gatekeeping.