

Melba Support Services Inc.
Assisting people with a disability towards personal fulfilment

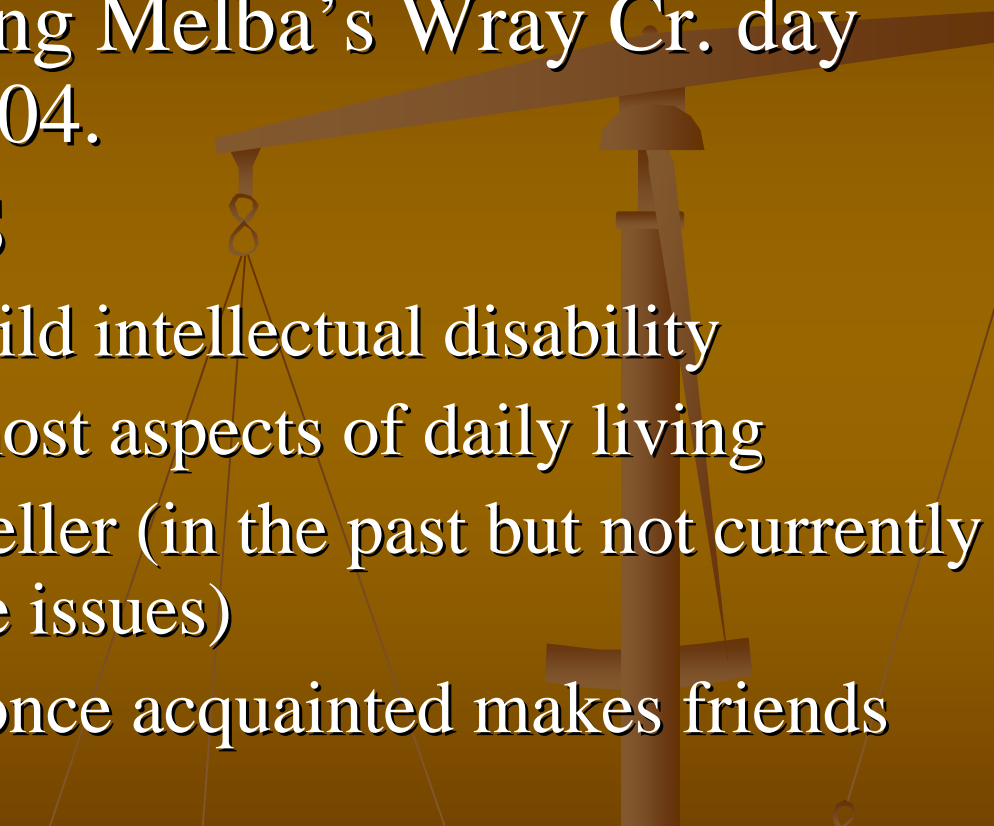
presentation to

Office of the Public Advocate
Risk Vs Rights Forum
October 2005

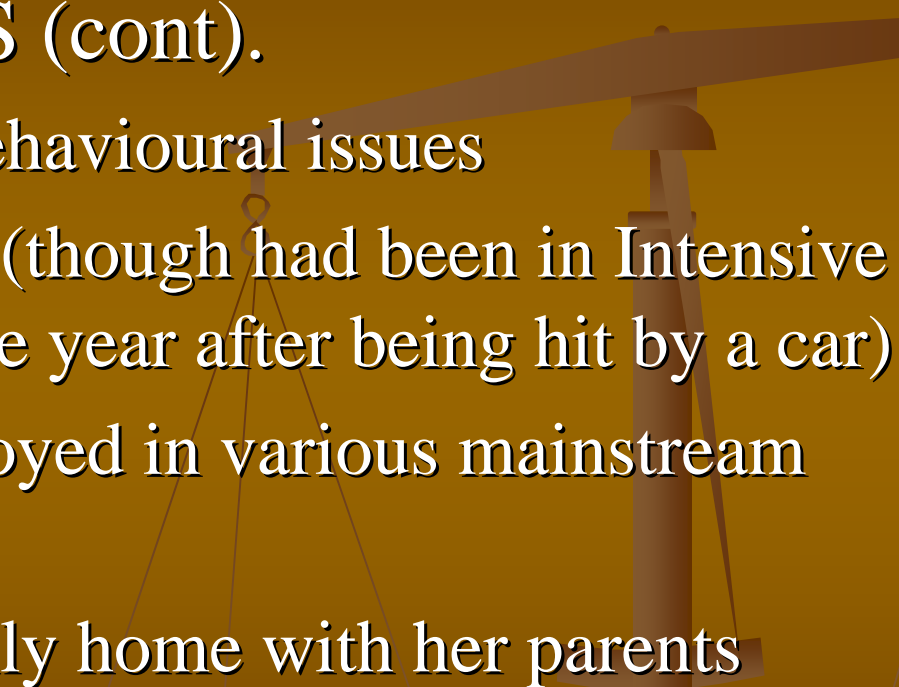
“LV” Case Study



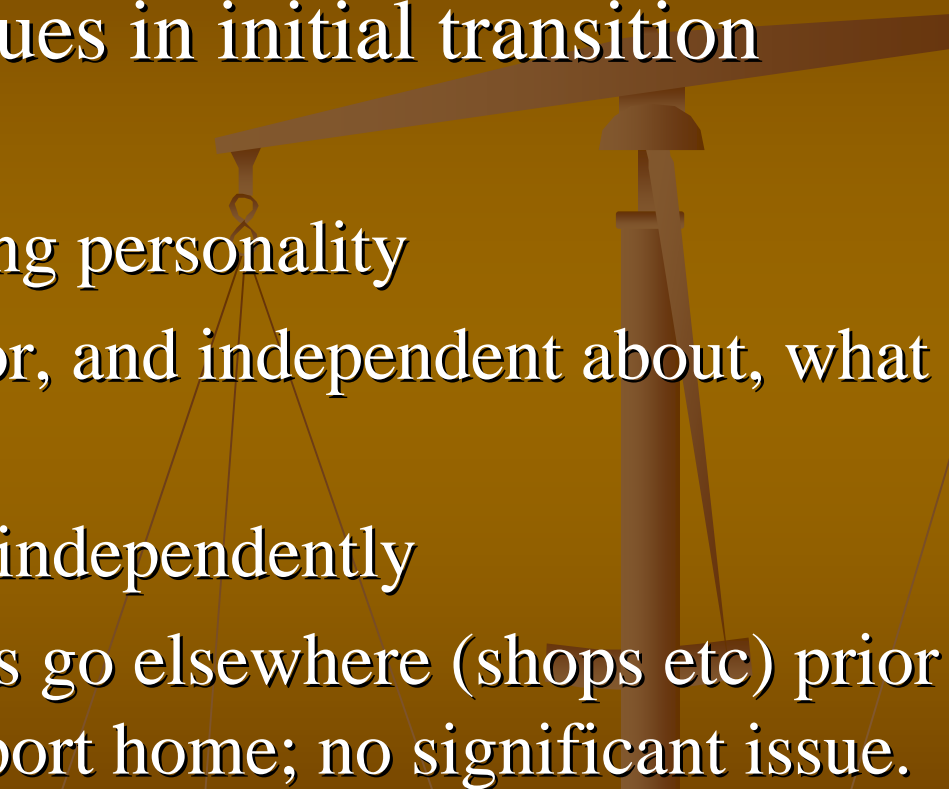
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- LV began attending Melba's Wray Cr. day service in July 2004.
 - Profile from DHS
 - Woman with a mild intellectual disability
 - Independent in most aspects of daily living
 - Independent traveller (in the past but not currently due to confidence issues)
 - Initially shy but once acquainted makes friends easily
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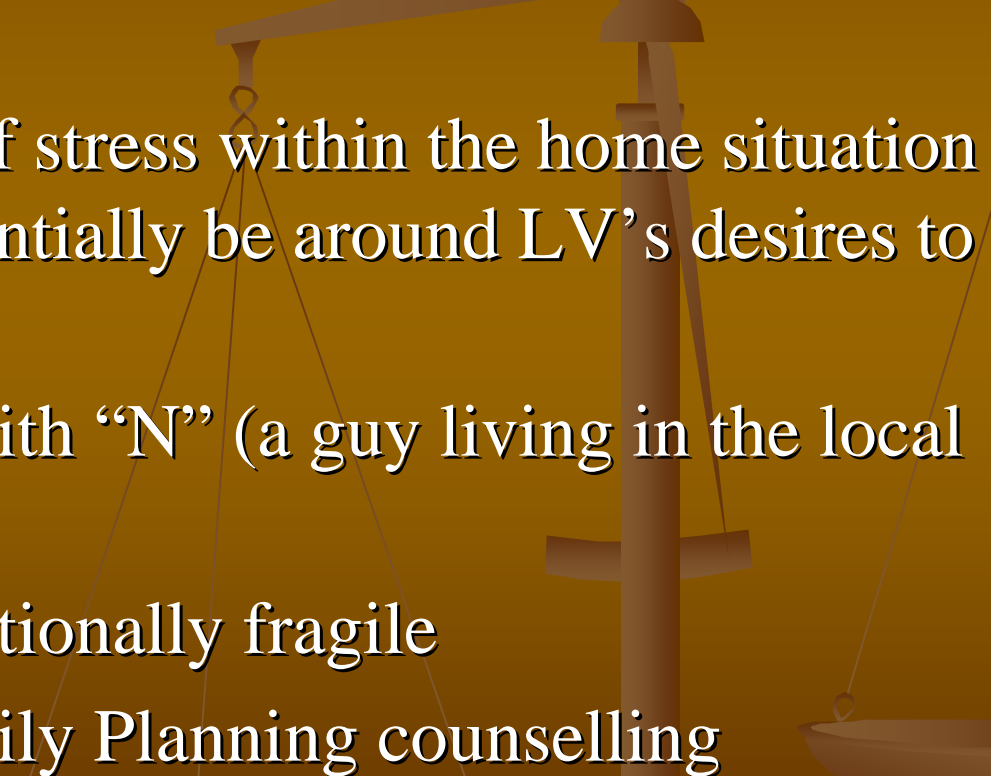
- Profile from DHS (cont).
 - No significant behavioural issues
 - No health issues (though had been in Intensive Care earlier in the year after being hit by a car)
 - Previously employed in various mainstream settings
 - Lives in the family home with her parents
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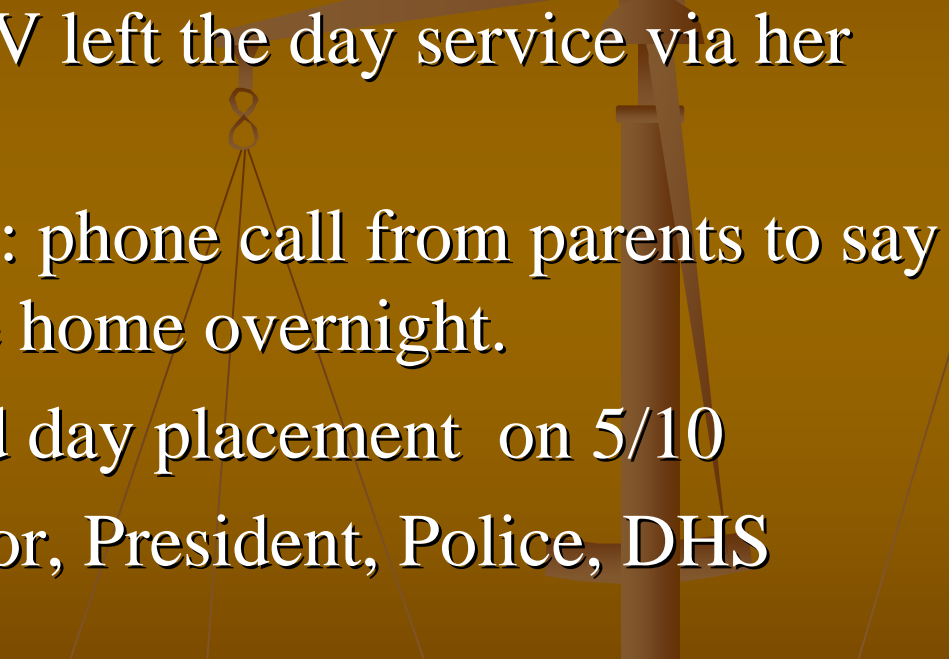
- No significant issues in initial transition period.
 - Generally outgoing personality
 - Self-advocated for, and independent about, what she wanted
 - Began travelling independently
 - Would sometimes go elsewhere (shops etc) prior to catching transport home; no significant issue.
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■ Emotional Supports

- Up's and down's
 - Some evidence of stress within the home situation (appeared to essentially be around LV's desires to live her own life)
 - "Relationship" with "N" (a guy living in the local community)
 - Increasingly emotionally fragile
 - Investigated Family Planning counselling
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■ INCIDENT

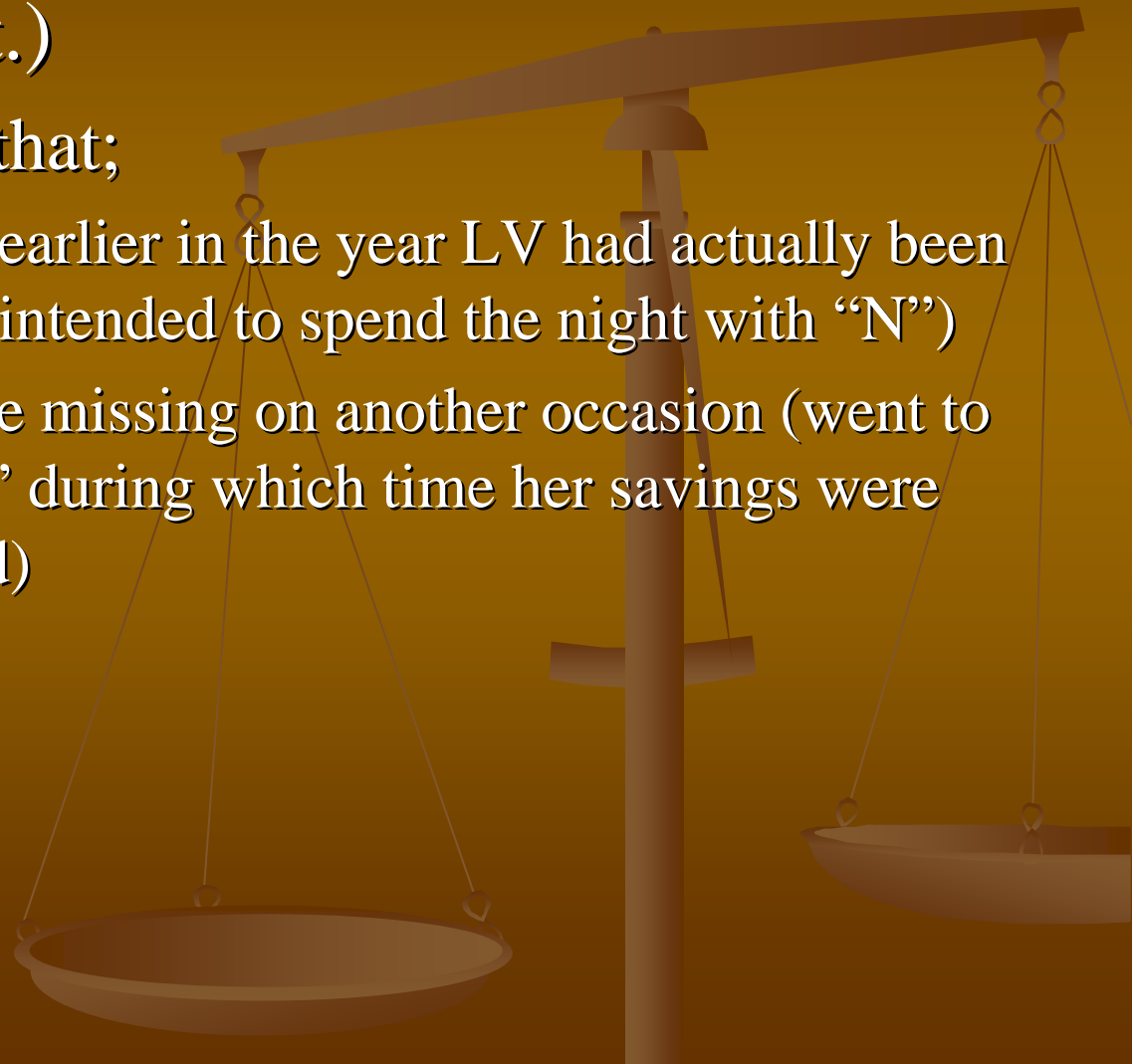
- Tuesday 4/10 : LV left the day service via her usual bus home.
 - Wednesday 5/10 : phone call from parents to say LV had not come home overnight.
 - LV did not attend day placement on 5/10
 - Executive Director, President, Police, DHS contacted
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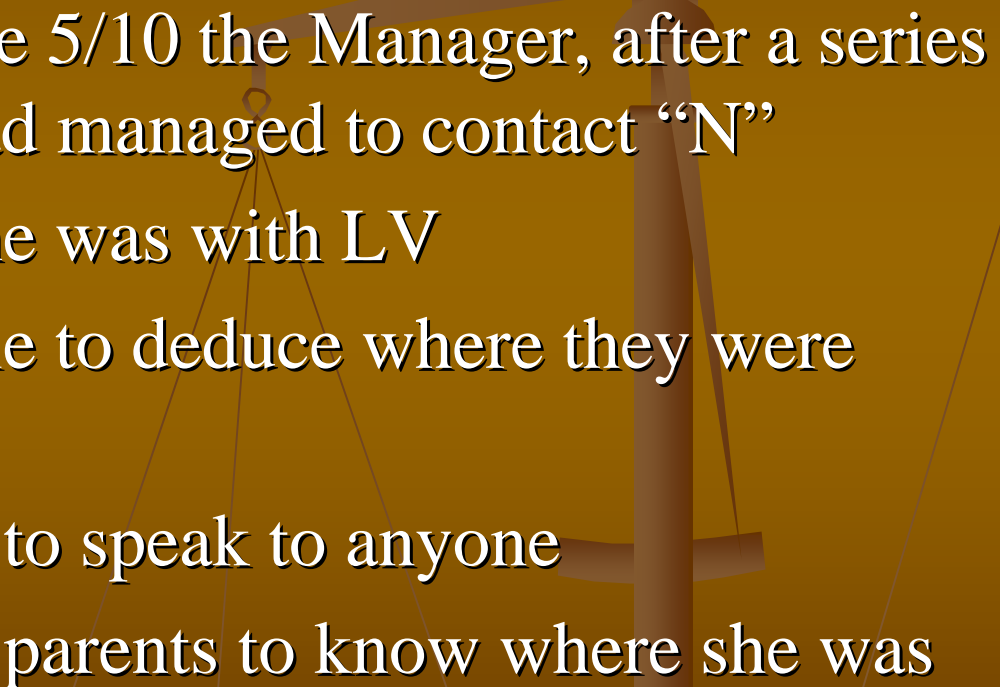
■ INCIDENT (cont.)

■ Melba informed that;

- When hit by car earlier in the year LV had actually been missing (having intended to spend the night with “N”)
- LV had also gone missing on another occasion (went to Sydney with “N” during which time her savings were largely expended)



■ INCIDENT (cont.)

- By 8.30pm on the 5/10 the Manager, after a series of phone calls had managed to contact “N”
 - Confirmed that he was with LV
 - Manager was able to deduce where they were (local area)
 - LV did not want to speak to anyone
 - LV did not want parents to know where she was
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WHAT NEXT??



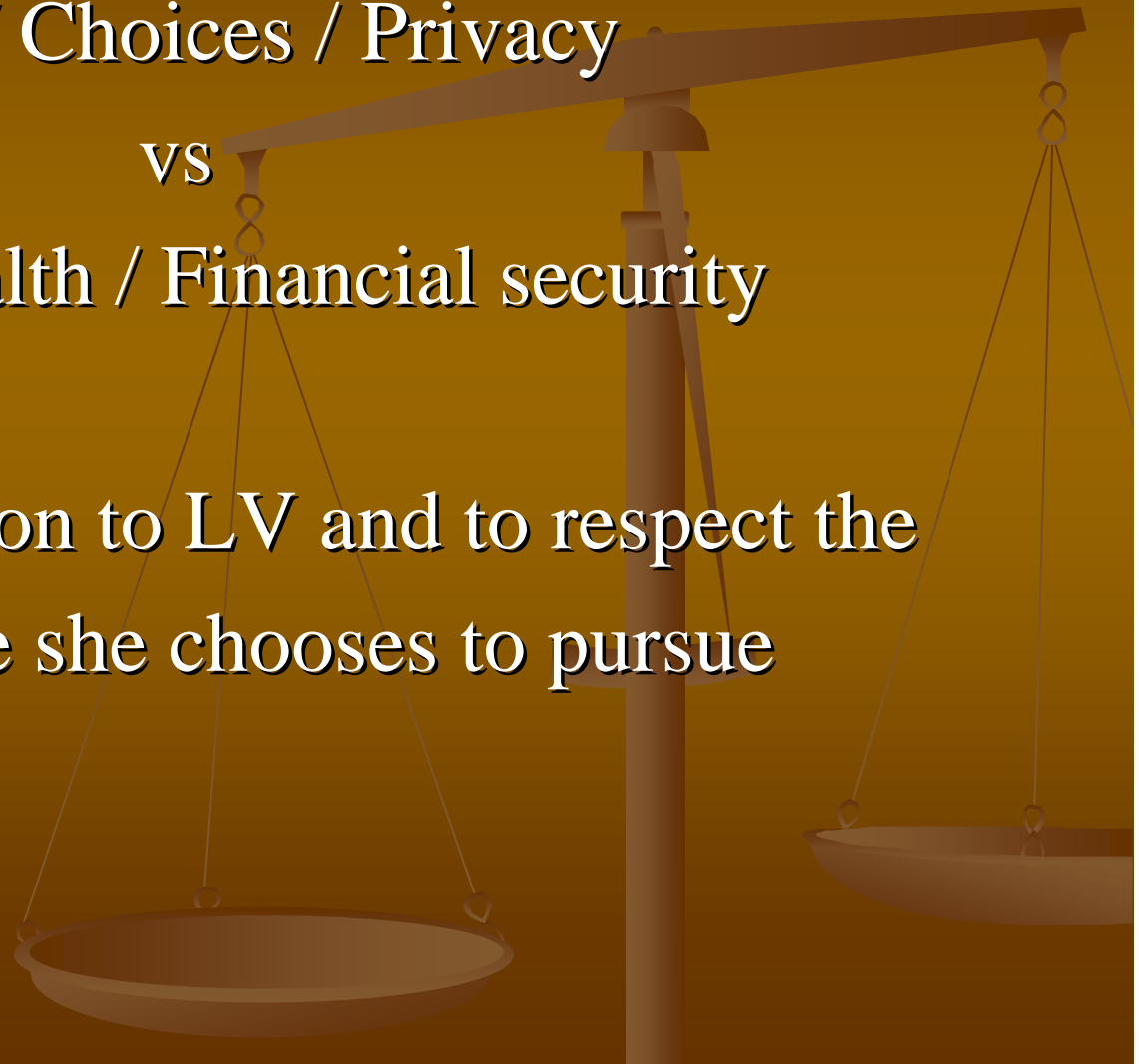
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Rights / Choices / Privacy

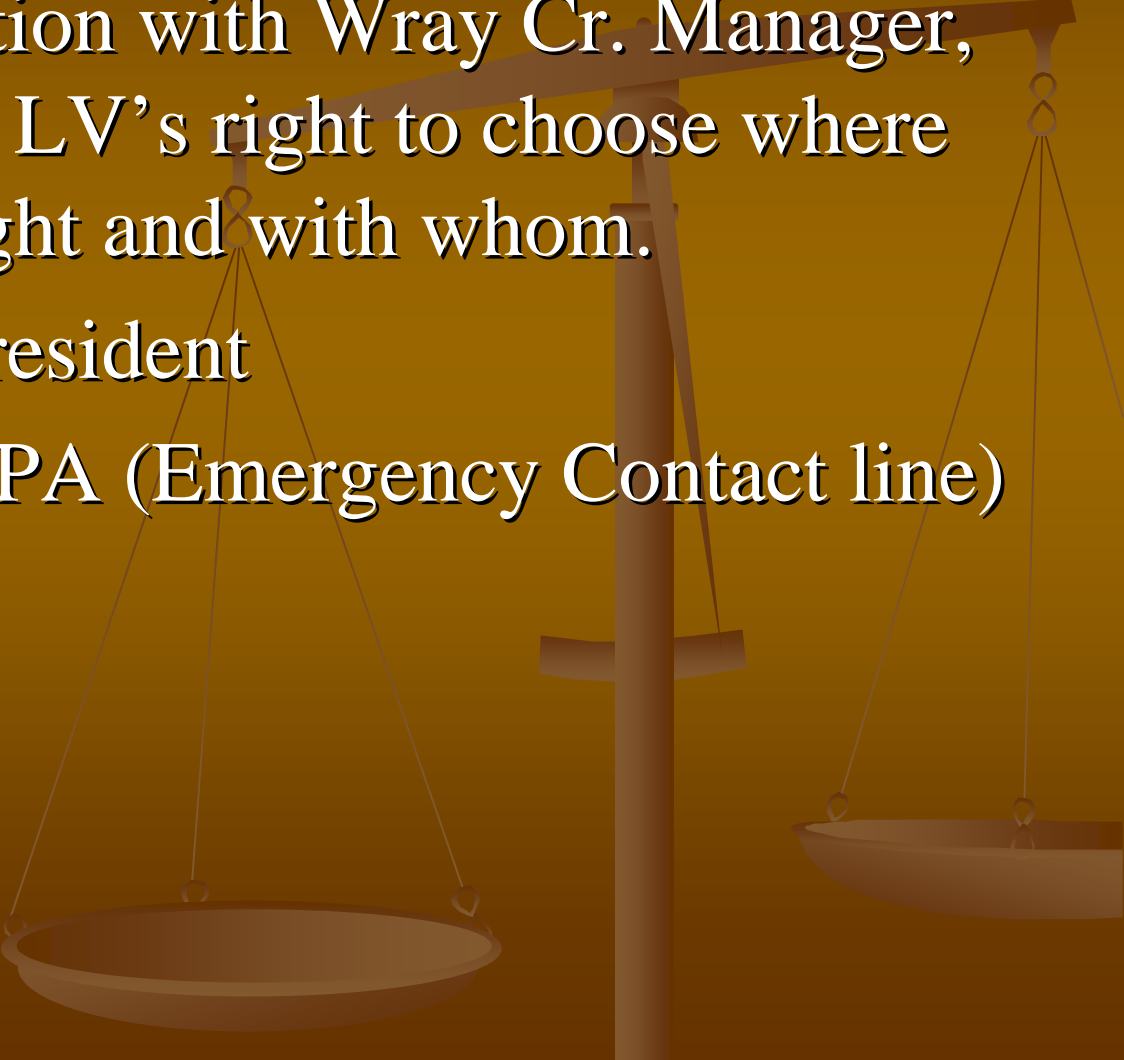
vs

Safety / Health / Financial security

Primary obligation to LV and to respect the
choices / life she chooses to pursue

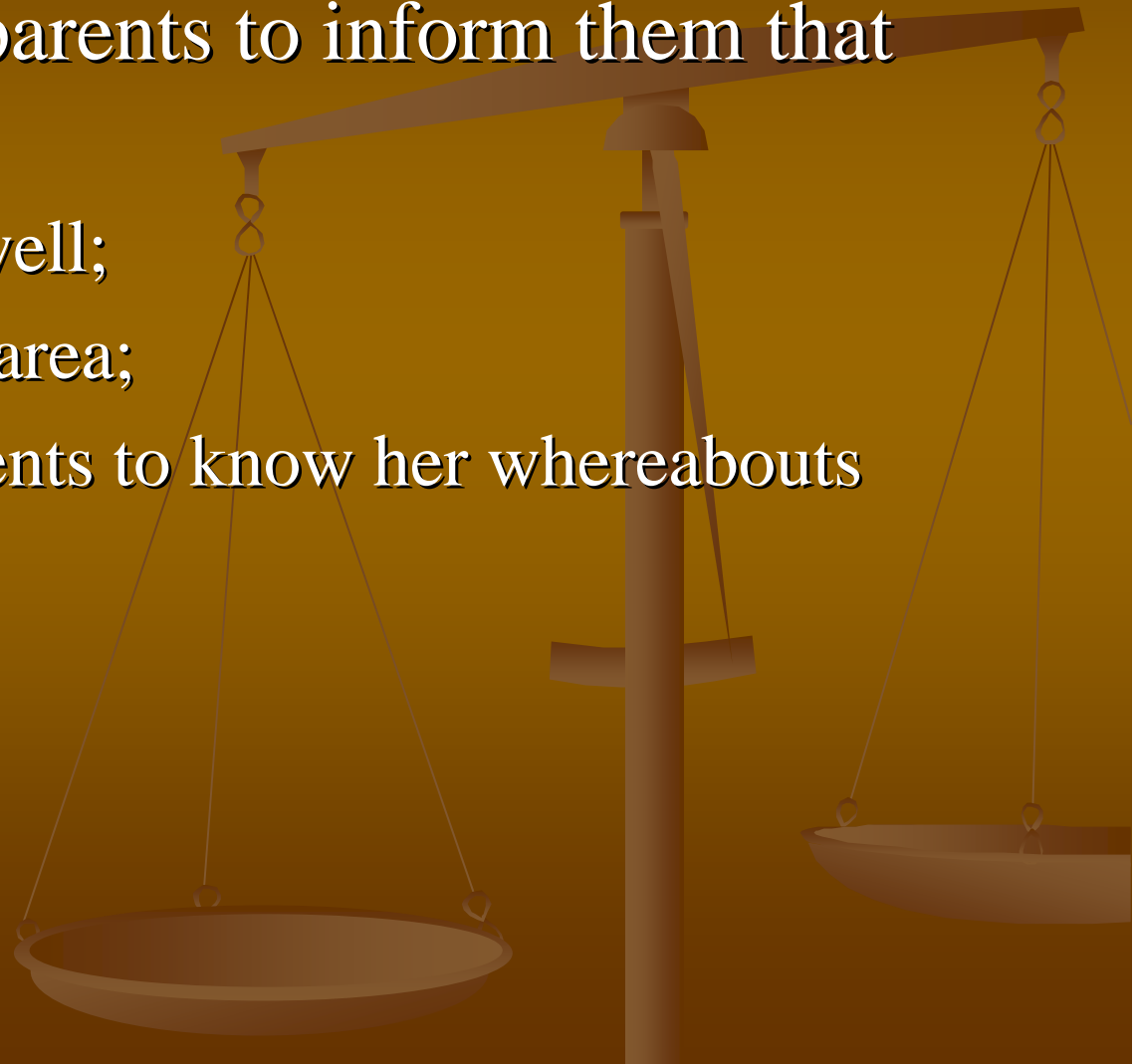


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- E.D. , in consultation with Wray Cr. Manager, decides to uphold LV's right to choose where she spends the night and with whom.
 - Consulted with President
 - Consulted with OPA (Emergency Contact line)
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- Contacted LV's parents to inform them that LV;
 - appeared to be well;
 - was in the local area;
 - did not want parents to know her whereabouts



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■ FOLLOW UP

- LV returned to the day placement the following day (and home that night)
 - Referral to DHS Client Services and S & C in relation to development of support strategies and package that might enable LV to eventually move out of home
 - Pursued referral to Family Planning
 - Referral to transitional supported accommodation setting
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