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**Title:** Splitsville

**Author:** Gerald P. Koocher and Patricia C. Keith-Spiegel, *Children, Ethics, and the Law: Professional Issues and Cases*, University of Nebraska Press, 1990.

**Description:** Parents disagree over enrolling their son in a research project using aversive conditioning to eliminate his cocaine addiction.

**Headings:** Decision-making Capacity, Assent, and Surrogate Permission; Surrogate decision makers; Minors (children, adolescents), Mental health disorders, participants with (including addictive disorders and developmental disabilities)

**Case Type:** Illustrative

### **Splitsville**

Mr. and Mrs. Split express sharp disagreement in the assessment of their hospitalized teenage son's enrollment in a research project using aversive conditioning to eliminate his cocaine addiction. Mrs. Split vigorously rejects the idea of "causing my boy any more pain that he has already endured." Mr. Split thinks that the project is a "great idea" and may even "make a man out of him" as well.