RESEARCH PROJECT: TEAM PARENTING PAINS

SCENARIO #1 Shawnta and Juan are 20-year-old high school graduates with a 3-year-old daughter, Lia. Juan works on the help desk solving customer IT (information technology) issues for a small company. He has $340 in child support withheld from his wages every month. Shawnta works part time and is attending community college to become a nurse. Shawnta depends on the child support from Juan to pay for child care and other monthly bills. Two months ago Juan got laid off and hasn't been able to find another job. Without money for child care, Shawnta has been missing some of her classes. Juan has begun to receive past-due notices from the child support office. He wants to pay but doesn't have the money. He's stopped spending time with Lia because he's embarrassed about not having any money. Shawnta is frustrated with Juan because he's not providing any money and not spending time with Lia. What can Shawnta and Juan do about their situation?

SCENARIO #2 Rachel is a 23-year-old noncustodial parent. Her ex, Brandon, has custody of their son, Jason. Rachel is a self-employed hairstylist, so she pays child support by check. Although she has some regular customers, Rachel's monthly income is unreliable. She's considered working full time at a salon to get a regular paycheck, but she likes her freedom. At this point, Rachel's $1,100 behind in her child support and has begun getting past-due notices and phone calls. Last week, she received a summons to come to court. Brandon is frustrated and angry about not getting his child support. He recently sent a group text to members of both of their families and to several of Rachel's close friends, explaining that he's about to be evicted because Rachel is too busy partying to go to work and pay child support. This caused a lot of drama and led to a big fight in front of Jason. Brandon's mother is on a fixed income, but she gave him the money he needed for his rent that month. What can Rachel and Brandon do about their situation? What might happen if they don't do anything?