

Case studies Module 6

Child toddlers age (4y) Harry

Harry is four years of age. He lives with his mother, his father and his six year old sister. **Harry's father** is unemployed and his mother works part time in a grocery store. Harry speaks only in "two word sentences" and talks very inarticulately. He often walks to the kindergarten on his own, in the afternoon; **his sister mostly picks him up**. Harry's clothes are often too small and not appropriate to the weather. **He often wears the same clothes for two weeks or more**. He always seems to be **hungry and steals food and hides it** into his little backpack. Harry often has "little accidents" while playing at home; resulting in haematoma on back and thighs, his mother complains that he is "a wild boy". **He avoids playing with male adults and seems to "freeze"** immediately or hides himself if there is a loud quarrel among other children.

Characters: you (as a professional), sister, kindergarten teacher, mother, father.

Child elementary school age (8y) Kimberly

Kimberly lives with her mother, her mothers' new partner and three younger siblings. Her brother is four years of age; the youngest siblings are one year old twins. Kimberly and her brother have the same father. The twins' father is the new partner. Kimberly's dad has substance use problems and struggles with his life. Since he is unemployed, he cannot pay subsistence for Kimberly and her brother. Her brother has some cognitive developmental deficits and language impairments. **Kimberly reports that the new partner harasses her and her brother whenever possible. He blames them** as "dumb and far too expensive", he says that her is "fed up of paying and caring for another men's' kids". The twins are always very well dressed and have only the best available toys. **Mother calls Kimberly "a little bitch" and predicts that she will end up like her father as a "crack whore living on the streets"**. **She refuses to give her a hug, because she is "smelly"**. If money is short at the end of the month, breakfast at school seems to be the only meal for Kimberly. Often, **she visits a neighbour for lunch or dinner**. He helps her with her homework or watches her favourite series with her. He also buys sweets or little gifts, even a brand new smartphone. In the evening, they often share **text messages or pictures** with her new smartphone. If her mother and her partner go out at night, **Kimberly has to look after the little kids**. She mostly prepares breakfast for herself and her brother and **accompanies him to his doctors' appointments or his speech therapy sessions**.

Characters: you (as a professional), Kimberley, mother, new partner, neighbour, speech therapist, doctor.

Young adolescent (12y) Kassim

Kassim lives with his mother. His father died from cancer four years ago. After her husband's death, **Kassim's mother suffers from a major depressive episode and survived a suicide attempt.** At this time, Kassim moved temporarily to his grandparents. Recently, **Kassim's mom's mental health got worse again.** She feels anxious, suffers from pain, does not want to leave the home, has difficulties to get up and often stays in bed for the whole day. **Kassim's uncle and his family live next door** and are very involved in daily life. **His aunt cooks and supports with housekeeping** since Kassim's mom got depressed again. His uncle has a very strict idea of parenting and **Kassim seems to be frightened of him.** Some weeks ago, **neighbours called the police. A verbal dispute escalated** and ended roughly **again**, after the uncle found **cigarettes and a small amount of marijuana** in Kassim's room. **The whole family is very concerned that he will "go to the wrong path"** and gets involved in criminal activities. His 17 year old cousin got the order to "look after him". **Arguments between the boys sometimes get violent and end up that his cousin beat him up.** In addition, Kassim shows **aggressive behaviour in the classroom towards other boys.** He has to change class different times and after **he threatened a teacher with a knife after school**, he is threatened to be dismissed from school.

Characters: you (as a professional), Kassim, mother, teacher, aunt, cousin, uncle, grandparents.

Adolescent (17y) Heather

Heather lives with her mother, her father left the family when Heather was five. **Before parents got divorced, domestic violence occurred towards Heather and her mother.** Heather works as a nurse in a retirement home, money is always sparse. The flat is quite small, Heather's mom sleeps in the living room. **Heather shares her room with her dog, "my dog Sammy is my reason to stay alive" Heather said.** Some evenings a week, **Heather's mother drinks a lot of alcohol after work, to cope with stress.** If Heather "annoys" her mother while she is drunk, **she screams and threatens Heather that she will sell the dog or give him to an animal shelter.** If things get worse, **she beats her, sometimes with a belt or a broomstick.** **Heather has multiple scars on her arms, where she cuts herself with razorblades or squeezes cigarettes on her skin.** She tries to hide those scars with long-sleeved shirts. Since six months, Heather is in a relationship with Leon. He is very keen to spend as much time as possible with Heather. **He does not like it, if Heather meets her friends for a "girl's night" or goes out without him.** Every day, **Heather and Leon go through Heather's text messages and social media activities.** **Leon wants to know, if Heather chats with other guys.** Some weeks ago, Leon heard a rumour that Heather met her ex-boyfriend at a party and danced with him. The next day, she

gave a picture he posted on social media a “like”. **Heather reports that Leon “totally freaks out” and smacked her and spited in her face and shoved her towards a wall.** After this, she was “a bit shocked” **but forgave him, since he promised in tears that he will never do it again.**

Characters: you (as a professional), Heather, mother, teacher, Leon.