

CASE STUDY OF IVAN



Directions: Read the following case study and determine the following utilizing Handout 3: Correlates of Truancy and Handout 4: Strategies for Prevention and Intervention (Child/Adolescent and Family Sections).

- 1. The child/adolescent and family risk factors exhibited by Ivan and his family.*
- 2. How you would go about assessing the risk factors with Ivan and his family?*
- 3. The prevention and intervention strategies that you would want to implement with Ivan and his family.*

Ivan is a 16 year old Columbian born male who came to the United States with both of his parents and his two younger brothers when he was ten years old. Both of his parents have held numerous minimum wage jobs over the years, interspersed with occasional times of unemployment. They had a particularly rough time learning the language during the first few years in this country. Neither parent holds a high school diploma. They love their children but hold little parental authority in the household.

Ivan has grown increasingly aggressive and out of control since the start of middle school. Ivan is particularly verbally aggressive with his mother and on two occasions he has shoved her during arguments. There have been sporadic incidences of spousal abuse in the past and, when Ivan was younger, his father was physically aggressive in his punishment with all of his children. More recently, his father has taken little active involvement with Ivan and is simply waiting for Ivan to leave the household.

When the family first moved to the United States, Ivan's parents occasionally relied on him to care for his two younger siblings when they were sick so they would not miss work. Ivan would never miss more than one or two days of school at these times. Ivan has struggled academically at school but is in no special classes nor has he received any academic support resources. He has not failed any grades but "squeaks by" every school year with C's and D's. He has friends at school but is involved with peers who are on the fringes of the school community.

Since the start of 11th grade, Ivan has missed 43 of the last 90 days of school. During the days that Ivan was truant, he hung out with his friends drinking and hanging out on the streets. The school uses an automatic phone messaging system to alert parents of student absences but no one from the school spoke in person to Ivan's parents about

CASE STUDY OF IVAN



their son's truancy. The parents then received a written truancy notice from the school a few weeks ago and were taken to court when Ivan continued to be truant. The parents were fined but were unable to pay the fine and court costs. Ivan continued to be truant and he was referred to Children and Youth.

At this point, the parents are threatened with the possibility of jail time if they can't pay the fines that are accumulating and get Ivan to attend school. Ivan has also had sanctions placed against him - the ability to apply for his driver's license is delayed for 90 days. Ivan doesn't care about this since he doesn't think he will need a driver's license. He believes that he can just use the public transportation system that he has always used to get where he needs to go or just walk. Ivan just wants to quit school. Ivan's parents are actually in favor of him quitting school so they don't have to deal with the courts and their sanctions.