

## **PART II**

### **MELINDA'S CASE**

*Let's Add Some Information* .....

#### **The Paramour**

Mike was raised by his mother in a single-parent family. He had 5 siblings, 4 of whom were male. At the age of 15, Mike was arrested for burglary and placed on probation. He later spent time in a group home. As a condition of his probation he was required to attend mental health counseling. At an early age he was diagnosed with dyslexia and was placed in learning disabled classes. There were also indications that he was sexually abused by an older male. After Mike was reported for physically abusing Melinda in January of 1986, he self-referred for therapy to the local mental health clinic. He expressed frustration at hitting the children, and reported that he had trouble controlling his temper.

#### **The Mother**

The mother reported a very unhappy childhood. Her father died when she was 17, and she had a very conflictual relationship with her mother. She was raised in a military family that moved frequently. At age 13 she was raped by several intoxicated adolescent males. Because of the poor relationship with her mother the incident was never discussed. She quit high school in her senior year to get married. Her husband drank heavily and was physically abusive. She left him on several occasions and fled to various women's shelters. She bore 5 children in a 6 year period. Her husband refused to become involved in child-rearing duties so she was always the primary caretaker. She was constantly stressed trying to care for the children, one of whom had multiple special needs.

#### **The Father**

The father had 5 siblings, 4 of whom were female. He was born with a collapsed lung and had a tracheotomy. The main disciplinarian when he was growing up was his father. He reports that he was often beaten with a belt. He dropped out of school in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and subsequently worked in a gas station and as a lumberjack. It was always difficult for him to keep a steady job. He began drinking when he was 10 years old and eventually developed an ulcer.

***If Risk Assessments Were Required in 1986 .....***

- 1. Discuss the case at your tables. If Risk Assessments were required in 1986, *who* would you have rated? Using the information provided, complete only the right-hand column of the Risk Factor Matrix. (Highest Risk Factor)**
  
- 2. From your ratings, select 5 factors which may have been the best predictors of possible violent behavior in the case. Why?**
  
- 3. For each of the 5 factors you selected, develop 1-2 questions that a caseworker could ask the parents or caretakers to gather appropriate information to rate the factor. (For example, in order to gather information to rate Factor #12, Family Violence, a caseworker could ask if the police have ever been to the home for any reason)**