

# Case Study of Teisha

## Directions for Role Play:

One person plays the role of the caseworker and one person plays the role of Teisha. The third person is the observer of the role play and provides feedback to the “caseworker” using **Handout 12: Suicide Risk Assessment Checklist** as a guide for constructive feedback. The person playing the role of Teisha can decide whether or not they want to portray low, moderate, or high lethality risk for suicide during the role play.

Teisha is a 14 year old African American female residing with her mother, father, and two younger female sisters in a lower middle class urban area. She is a freshman at a local high school where she is doing poor academically and has not adjusted well to the transition to high school. She has come to the attention of the Children and Youth Agency via a phone call from her parents. The parents reported that Teisha ran away from home three times in the past month and returned home after a period of about two days each time. Teisha has stated to her parents that she has stayed at various friends’ houses while away from home. Her parents believe that she has become involved sexually with a 17 year old boy and that is where she goes when she leaves home. They also believe that this boyfriend may be supplying her with alcohol and drugs.

Her parents reported that Teisha is argumentative at home and at school, lethargic, has little appetite lately, and has stated more than once that nobody cares whether she is alive or dead. This prompted great concern on the part of the parents because Teisha swallowed half of a bottle of aspirins approximately six months ago. At that time, Teisha’s parents were separated but have since reconciled. Following this incident, her parents took her to the emergency room at the local hospital and insisted she go to counseling. Teisha went for counseling for a brief period of time but she discontinued counseling about 3 months ago saying that it was no longer helpful.

There are many issues to check out with Teisha. However, the first order of business is to assess her for suicide risk. Using **Handout 9: Suicide Risk Factors**, **Handout 10: Assessing Suicidal Risk**, and **Handout 12: Suicide Risk Assessment Checklist**, proceed with the interview and determine whether she is low, moderate, or high risk for suicide.