

Barbara's Case:

Barbara is a 16-year-old only child Caucasian female. She has been in out-of-home care for three years and is currently living in a group home for girls.

Barbara was sexually and physically abused by her father and mother from age 6 to age 13. The abuse was finally discovered when Barbara told her secret to the school counselor. Efforts to maintain Barbara in the home and to reunify Barbara with her biological parents after placement were futile. Her parents refused to cooperate in case planning and continued to deny allegations of abuse.

Barbara has been in four foster homes in three years. Her last placement was with a foster family for one year before entering the group home. The foster family initially wanted to pursue adoption but when they discovered that Barbara was abusing alcohol and other drugs and was sexually active, they changed their mind. They believed that AOD abuse showed that Barbara was "willfully going against their religious beliefs." When they tried to get help for the problem, Barbara ran away.

She was later found and expressed a willingness to enter a residential drug rehab program. Arrangements will need to be made for placement options. Barbara seems to make friends easily.

