

REFERRAL SCRIPT:

C.W. “I dread having to make a referral like this when there’s no *immediate* threat of suicide or harm to others because I feel like I get involved in a ping-pong match with the mental health (MH) representative. I know that I tend to get frustrated which leads me to become argumentative. I need to make a real effort to keep my cool and try not to second guess the counselor.”

(Demonstrate a Phone Conversation)

C.W. “Hello, Mark/ Megan, this is (Trainers Name) from the Carbon County Children and Youth office. I’d like to talk with you about a possible referral.”

M.H. “Sure thing. What do you have?”

C.W. “Well, I’m working with a young couple – Robin Stennis, 20 years old, and Jack, her 21 year old husband. They have a 12 month old son, Jake, who was taken in to protective custody when he was only one month old after being diagnosed by physicians for failure to thrive. The child came home one month later. However, within 6 months, the baby returned to the foster care system because of severe abuse by a babysitter. He sustained a head injury and leg fracture. The parents signed a voluntary placement agreement.”

“Although the parents remained married, Jack left to join the Navy. This occurred three months after Robin moved in with her mother. Three months later and with no explanation, Jack returned from the Navy. He subsequently moved in with Robin and her mother.”

“Robin’s parents had divorced when she was three. Her father was awarded custody and she resided with him until she was 13. Robin reported chronic physical abuse by the father. At age 13, she was placed with her biological mother. Shortly thereafter, at age 14, she was hospitalized with uncontrollable behavior and suicidal ideation. During this period, Robin was diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder. This began a history of hospitalizations. Subsequently, Robin was placed in a residential treatment facility. She was placed in an independent living arrangement from age 14 to 18.”

“Robin met Jack while at the residential treatment facility. She became pregnant soon after her discharge from state care. She and Jack were married shortly after her 19th birthday. Little is known about Jack’s past, except for a reported history of abuse in his family. His father was also and alcoholic. It has been alleged that Jack abuses alcohol or will.”

REFERRAL SCRIPT (continued):

“Currently, Jake is in foster care for the second time in his one year of life. Jack and Robin are residing with her mother and visiting Jake on a weekly basis. Both parents have denied knowledge that the babysitter had violent tendencies, although other sources report that the parents had knowledge of this possibility. Neither parent, at this juncture, has availed themselves to further services.”
(A Long Pause...)

C.W. “Mark/Megan, you’re quiet. Is this not sounding appropriate for your involvement?”

M.H. “Well, I’m a little concerned about two issues – that neither individual has expressed an interest in getting help, and, perhaps more importantly, from a mental health perspective, I didn’t hear you say that the wife is *presently* at risk of harming herself. You didn’t mention any recent suicidal ideation that she expressed. So, if she’s not an immediate risk, and the kid is safe, I’m not sure what I can do for you.”

C.W. “I can see where the lack of any current suicidal threats is a concern, and I’m sure you’re swamped and don’t really need yet another case, but I think we can work together to make something happen with this family. I’m quite convinced that *Robin*, at least, is ready to do some work.”

M.H. “Ok, What’d you have in mind?”

C.W. “Well, Robin presents with a flat affect, *but*, she says that she doesn’t have concern for anything except getting her son back. She has not been working since Jake’s placement. Lately, she calls our agency daily saying she needs to ‘just talk’. I believe her. She seems ready to re-enter therapy – especially since there is the leverage in her wanting to get her son back.”

M.H. “Well I have an intake opening this Friday at 10:00am.”

C.W. “That would be terrific! I’ll make sure she has transportation.”

“As I mentioned, there are some allegations that Jack abuses alcohol. I might want to gently explore the prospects of a D & A evaluation referral for him.”

M.H. “Sounds like a plan. I’ve got Robin penciled in for Friday, at 10:00. Take care.”

C.W. “Thanks, Mark/Megan.”