

CASE SCENARIO: JOHN

John is a seventeen-year-old. He lives with his biological mother and his stepfather. Also living in the home are his eight-year-old half-sister, Mary, and his six-year-old half-brother, Mike. When he was about nine, John's parents divorced. John rarely sees his biological father. He has memories of his biological father drinking a lot and sometimes hitting his mother and his brothers. After his parents divorced, his mother moved the family several times and since her remarriage, the family has lived several different places. Perhaps because of this, John is considered a "loner." He has a couple of casual friends and has a girlfriend, whom he mostly sees at school. When he was younger, John stayed at home in the afternoons and evenings while his mother worked. His older brother baby-sat him. John's mother was easy-going and had few rules or demands of the boys. After John's brothers left home, John kept the habit of hanging around the house. In a way, his mother became his best friend. John's mother talked with him a lot and they often went shopping and did things together. She has always let him do what he wanted.

John often feels life is not fair. Lately things have been especially rough. John resents his mother making him babysit his younger half-siblings. Although John was never a very good student, he has increasingly gotten into more trouble at school. His most recent girlfriend just broke up with him. He feels especially restricted by the responsibility of taking care of his younger half-siblings. He is angry with the school and is feeling hurt that his girlfriend dumped him. He often thinks, "Things never go good for me. No one cares about me. I don't count." "I might as well give up. I can never do things right. I'm a real loser."

Never good at speaking up to his mother or expressing his feelings, John has started going to his room at night, where instead of doing his schoolwork, he draws pictures of army tanks and missiles while listening to music with his headphones. When one of his friends calls, he says he cannot talk.

Over time, John becomes increasingly resentful about how things are going in his life. He continues to do poorly in school and blames his teachers. He thinks his mother deliberately makes things hard for him by insisting that he baby-sit and do some

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housework after school. John begins to do little things to annoy his mother, like "forgetting" to give her phone messages. He teases her by hiding things she needed, like bills or her checkbook. After she gets upset, he gives them to her. John has told himself that he was getting back at Mom for being so hard on him.

When John was about six or seven, he fell into a pattern of masturbating when his parents would fight or if his father yelled at him. Doing this would take away the bad feelings. By the time he entered his teens, John was masturbating two or three times a day. Sometimes he would have fleeting images of his half-sister, Mary, bathing. Now, when John masturbates, sometimes he will think about Mary and about touching her between her legs. In the last couple of years, John found he enjoyed touching Mary's breast area and buttocks. He did this under the guise of wrestling with her. One night while Mary was sleeping, John put his hand into Mary's pajamas and felt her genital area.

Now John is thinking about what it would be like to put his finger into her vagina. John has thought about how he might go about doing this. One night as they were sitting on the sofa close together, John told Mary that he wanted to play a special touching game. In time, this led to John's digital penetration of Mary. When Mary complained that John hurt her, John would give her an extra dessert. John also let Mary stay up late with him whenever he molested her. Sometimes John takes her to movies or to the mall. John tells himself that she likes it because she wants to sit by him and asks for extra treats.

After he molested Mary, John would have some feelings and thoughts that were uncomfortable. He dismisses these, telling himself that he didn't really ever hurt Mary because she likes him to take care of her and touch her. John believes that he is Mary's favorite family member because Mary even asks to have him babysit her or take her places.

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Directions: Fill out the following information after reading the case scenario about John. Respond as best you can with the information provided.

- 1. Identify any present or impending danger(s).**
- 2. What information, related to the six domains, can you gather based on the information provided? (The six domains include: Type of Maltreatment; Nature of Maltreatment-Surrounding Circumstances; Child Functioning; Adult Functioning; General Parenting; and Parenting Discipline)**
- 3. What are the safety threats/concerns?**
- 4. What additional question(s), if any, does a child welfare professional need to ask and who should the child welfare professional interview?**