

ASSESSMENT – PART I

NAME: John Abrami

DATE: 11/24/XX

D.O.B: 11/01/XX

CURRENT PLACEMENT: Franklin County Juvenile Detention Center

I. Evaluation Procedure

This evaluation is being conducted at the request of the Franklin County Juvenile Court to aid in determining appropriate intervention strategies for the management of John Abrami as the result of his adjudication for Indecent Assault. The following sources of information were reviewed prior to meeting with John:

Social History completed by the Department of Human Services dated 10/03/XX

Police Report #47596-95

Juvenile Court Complaint #95-41270934

Reports from Mid Town Community Mental Health Center

Reports from Central School System

Psychological Evaluation by Dr. Joe Smith

John was interviewed on four separate occasions. John was accompanied by his mother for the first assessment session. During the first interview, the nature of the evaluation, client rights, and limits of confidentiality were discussed with John and his

biological mother, Mrs. Abrami, and they agreed to participate in the assessment process. John was interviewed at the Franklin County Juvenile Detention Center on 10-25-18 for two hours, on 11/01/XX for one hour, and 11/10/XX for one hour. John was administered the Abel Assessment *for sexual interest* – 2 on 11/17/XX, which took almost two hours. Mrs. Abrami was interviewed at the Juvenile Court on 11/03/XX for one hour. John was generally receptive to the assessment process, overtly responding to questions in an open and direct fashion. Mrs. Abrami was cooperative with the assessment process as well.

II. Background Information

John is a seventeen-year-old male who was referred to Juvenile Court on a charge of Aggravated Indecent Assault, which was later amended through plea-bargaining to a charge of Indecent Assault. He admitted in Court that on 07/01/XX, while wrestling with his eight-year-old sister he became aroused and touched her in the vaginal area. The offending behavior came to the attention of the Court after his sister, Mary, was examined at a hospital due to a chronic urinary problem. Upon examination, there was evidence of sexual abuse, and the Department of Human Services was notified. During interviews with the victim, she reported that John had been touching her in a sexual way for several years. She had apparently reported this several times previously to her mother, but then she would recant and her mother never notified anyone.

III. Nature, Progression of Offense Behavior

John states that he often babysat for his half-sister, Mary, and his six-year-old half-brother, Mike. He reports that on the day of the reported offense, he and Mary were watching wrestling on television and that she came up to him and started wrestling with him. During the course of this "play," he describes that he started rubbing Mary in her pubic area and that he continued to do this for several minutes. He initially denied any contact with the vaginal area under clothing or any penetration of this area. He admits some sexual arousal but denies ejaculation. He consistently says that this is the first and last time that he ever touched her, and he is not able to explain why there would be physical evidence of sexual abuse.

It is only after two interviews, and after John is presented with the victim's statements as well as other information, which he admits he was involved in digital penetration. He indicates that digital penetration only happened once. He becomes angry about questions regarding progression or planning of the offense or whether there was any other type of offense behavior with Mary. He reluctantly admits that there were sexual thoughts and fantasies regarding Mary, but he presents this in a confusing way so that one is not able to get a clear time line. He indicates that thoughts about Mary occurred during times that he would "check on her" when she was bathing. This occurred during occasions of babysitting for both of the children. John adamantly denies any incidents of molestation of his younger brother. He does state that he bathed Mike and wrestled with him on a regular basis, but he denies that he ever thought about or touched Mike in a sexual way. John denies that he threatened Mary or used physical aggression in molesting her. He does say he sometimes used bribes or rewards to encourage her not to tell.

Questioning regarding why he targeted Mary yields little specific information. He simply says that she was the only "girl child" that he was watching at the time. He notes that eventually he stopped himself because he started thinking about what his older brother did to him and how it was terrible to do this to someone else. John states that he had strong feelings of shame and confusion about the touching and that his conscience sometimes says, "kill yourself". He then reports that, in fact, he felt so bad that on one occasion he took a bottle of liquors that he had mixed together and gave himself alcohol poisoning. Later on it was verified by this writer in reviewing information, however, that the sexual touching incident that he admitted to occurred much later than the alcohol poisoning that he did to himself. When reporting this incident, it would appear that John was dissembling regarding the time line to use this incident to illustrate feelings of remorse that may not be accurate.

IV. Sexual History

John denies any other type of inappropriate sexual behavior with younger children. He denies any previous targeting or grooming of other victims. He does admit that there have been several incidents of hands-off offensive behavior, which include incidents of peeking into windows of neighbors and stealing underwear from his mother. He admits some arousal from watching neighbors involved in undressing and sexual behavior. He is unwilling to provide information regarding any thoughts surrounding taking the underwear and what he did with it. He denies any sexual fantasies involved with this or using the underwear for masturbation purposes. This remains an area of secrecy and embarrassment for John, and obviously this whole area needs to be further explored.

He denies ever participating in exhibitionism, obscene phone calls, frotteurism, bestiality, sexual sadism, sexual masochism, transvestic fetishism, or other paraphiliac behavior. He denies any difficulty with primary sexual dysfunctions including impotency, premature ejaculation, inhibited ejaculation, or hypoactive sexual desire. He identifies his sexual orientation as heterosexual.

In talking about his sexual development in general, John seems anxious to note that it has been "normal" because he has had sexual relationships with peers. He reports that he started having sex with girls his age when he was about thirteen. He estimates that he has had sexual intercourse about fifteen or twenty times with four sexual partners. His partners have been anywhere from his age to about three years older. John says that his sexual fantasies are usually about girls he knows or movie stars. He also fantasies about girls that he views in *Playboy* centerfolds. He states that his fantasies often involve "weird and wild" behavior, including behavior that has some elements of sadism or masochism. He adds, however, that he would never actually do this kind of behavior.

In discussing his sexual education, John says that he has had extensive access to erotic literature in his home and in the home of a friend. There have been times when he has viewed erotic movies with his parents and his sister. His stepfather has given him a number of erotic movies and books for his use. John views use of erotic literature as normal. He says that when he was younger he used to steal this type of material from his stepfather, but as he got older his stepfather started giving the material to him. It is noteworthy that he reports that it was more exciting to him when he stole the material than when he was actually given the material or allowed to view X-rated movies with the knowledge of his parents. Another reported aspect of his sexual education involved being able to observe older siblings when they were involved in sexual intercourse in the home. This occurred when he was about eleven or twelve. He also says that when he was young (age nine or ten) he peeked and saw his mother and

stepfather involved in sexual intercourse on a couple of occasions. John reports that he has had very little direct sexual education from parental figures. He has had some sex education in terms of biological aspects of sex in school. He also reports that he learned a great deal from his buddies who talk about their sexual exploits. John doesn't like to use condoms and reports he knows how to choose "clean" girlfriends.

V. Contributing Factors

Available information indicates that John developed physically in a normal manner. No indications of hormonal imbalances or brain structure problems are noted. No history of significant brain trauma is noted. John presents as a physically well developed, stocky Caucasian male who appears to feel comfortable with his appearance. Significant acne is noted and John is clearly uncomfortable with this condition.

John's family of origin can be described as chaotically enmeshed. His parents separated when he was nine years of age and his father has not been involved in his life since that time. He reports that he is very close to his mother and siblings and it does not appear as though they have significant emotional/physical boundaries within the family system. John is largely viewed as an equal with his mother and is not required to follow family rules. His stepfather is absent from the home much of the time as he works as a long-haul truck driver.

John claims that he was molested by his brother, Ed, who is seven years older than he is. He believes that this occurred from the time that he was four to six years old until he was about ten when his brother was sent to a juvenile correction institution. He describes this as beginning when Ed took baths with him, and he would touch John in

sexual areas and make John touch him. He reports that this later progressed to forced fellatio and that Ed used threats of beating John up or withholding food when Ed was babysitting for him. John reports that Ed would sometimes also force John and his other older brother to be sexual with each other while Ed watched. He is vague about how or when this was disclosed to his mother. He implies that his mother may have known about it, but his mother has denied that she ever knew anything about this until John was arrested for molesting Mary. John indicates that he never received any treatment for his own personal victimization. John says that he is not aware of any other pattern of sexual abuse in the family. He does not know of anyone in the family besides him who has ever gotten in trouble for their sexual behavior. It is noted that Ed was not sent to a juvenile correctional institution on a sexual offense but for other general delinquency offenses. No collaborative information is available to substantiate this alleged victimization. John denies any history of physical abuse or any knowledge of physical abuse in the family.

The psychological evaluation conducted by Dr. Smith indicates that John is developmentally somewhat immature but intellectually functions in the normal range of intelligence. He does not appear to feel socially competent and tends to express himself in a passive-aggressive fashion. John has a history of compulsive behavior as indicated by his use of illicit substances and compulsive sexual behavior. John can be described as moderately aggressive, poorly socialized, and highly compulsive.

Prior to the identified offense, John was having significant difficulty in school as evidenced by several suspensions and an expulsion. His girlfriend, who was three years younger than himself, had just broken up with him. He reports feeling pressure from his mother to be responsible for the welfare of his siblings and felt entrapped by this responsibility.

VI. Cooperation with Assessment Process

John was cooperative in terms of coming for appointments, answering questions, and not showing direct resistance to the evaluation process. However, there are discrepancies between what he reports and what the victim has reported, and the discrepancies suggest that John may not be entirely truthful in his level of disclosure. Collateral material indicates that this abusive behavior occurred on at least six separate occasions while John claims that it occurred only once. Collateral material indicates that John digitally penetrated his sister and John only admitted this after substantial confrontation. During the course of the assessment John was sometimes spontaneous and open in talking about himself, but at other times he showed anger and defensiveness when certain topics were approached. He was also vague in discussing events that led up to the offense behavior and occurrences afterward. He admits that he lied to the police initially and also to his parents. When asked directly who is to blame for the molestation, he does verbalize that he is 100% responsible; however, it is noted that when he is describing events he often portrays Mary as the one who started making sexual advances. He also seems to place blame by noting that she offered no resistance. Generally, John's cooperation with the assessment could be described as variable. He overtly claims that he needs "help", but he continues to minimize the seriousness of the behavior and may be in denial regarding accountability aspects of the behavior and the progression of his behavior.

VII. Parent Interview

John's mother, Mrs. Abrami, was cooperative in coming for the interview. She at first indicated that John is normally a truthful boy and that what he said in the assessment could probably be trusted. However, later on in the interview she disagreed with things that John reported about the family and said that he was probably not telling the truth. She did not believe, for example, that her older son molested John and his brother. She also doubted the extent of the molestation of Mary because Mary did not verbalize any problems about John babysitting for her and also was very confusing about reporting details of the molestation.

Mrs. Abrami was not able to provide any precursors or "red flags" that indicated that John was having any difficulty with his sexual development or becoming involved in offense behavior. She did not notice any behaviors that caused her concern. She believes that her son needs some kind of help, but she notes that he probably needs more help for other problems such as his temper and fighting than for sexual behavior. She believes that this should just be "put in the past." She also says that Mary is doing quite well, and she does not believe that she is going to have any long-term problems. Mrs. Abrami believes that Mary is young enough to just forget about this. Mary is not receiving counseling.

John's mother does not identify any potential problems with use of erotic literature for adolescents or adults. She also has no problems with adolescents being sexually active, and notes at one point that her children's sexual behavior is their business. She has allowed her teenage sons to have girlfriends over for "overnight visits."

VIII. Summary of Questionnaires

John was asked to complete several questionnaires, including multiple choice and sentence completion exercises. John's responses indicated that he had inaccurate sexual information and knowledge, consistent with his report that he knew how to pick "clean" girlfriends. For example, he endorsed that "Chance of pregnancy is increased if the man and woman 'come' at the same time" and "Pornography is a good source of information about sex." He also endorsed many statements indicating that he held onto misinformation about the nature of sexual assault, including that his behavior with his sister was normal and that there should be no consequences to the offender. Examples of additional items included that "Most guys try to get as much as they can on a date," "Boys who act like the males in pornography are more appealing to females," and "If you were guaranteed that you would not get caught, you might trick or manipulate a person into being sexual." Questions specifically related to use of the Internet indicated that he had not fully disclosed the extent of his use, endorsing items to include "I have participated in sexually-related chats," "I use the Internet to experiment with different aspects of sexuality," "I have increased the risks I take online," and "When I am unable to access sexual information online, I feel anxious, angry, or disappointed." Thinking errors that were identified included victim-blaming, victim stance, minimization, justification, and denial. His responses also demonstrated social alienation, externalization of responsibility (blaming others), and use of sex to cope in place of appropriate emotional coping.

ACE – Adverse Childhood Experiences:

This study of 17,000 individuals, completed in 1998 with the cooperation and coordination between the Center for Disease Control and Kaiser Permanente, firmly established the association between stressful and traumatic childhood experiences and risk of adult physical and mental health, to include drug and alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy,

depression, suicidality, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorders, intimate partner violence, smoking, obesity, sexually transmitted diseases, poor health-related quality of life, and numerous physical health issues, such as liver disease, ischemic heart disease, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. A score of four or more of ten items is significantly associated with future mental and physical health problems. Although the questions are framed “during the first 18 years of life,” those items which are experienced prior to age 4 were noted to be significant.

John’s history and self-report indicated that he experienced parental separation and divorce, he witnessed domestic violence as a young child, his father was a problem drinker, and a brother who was more than five years older sexually abused him. Although his older brother was placed in a juvenile facility for general delinquency, this was scored as a household member going to prison. While he described not feeling safe in his home when his older brother lived there, he was not scored for being verbally or physically abused by an adult in the home. Therefore, he received a score of five, with three of the items occurring prior to age 4. Additionally, the treatment by his older brother, who appeared to be in a caretaking situation, likely added to the trauma John experienced as a child.

IX. Areas of Relative Strength/Positives

X. Areas of Concern/Problem Areas