

*Case 1:* Brittany is a fourteen-year old Caucasian female who is currently at a shelter placement. She was picked up in a sex trafficking sting operation and was reportedly trafficked by her mother's ex-boyfriend over the past year. Brittany has frequent telephone contact with her mother, but her mother's ex-boyfriend did not allow Brittany to see her mother and had threatened to kill Brittany if Brittany attempted to return to her mother's home. During the intake medical exam Brittany was found to have numerous cuts on her arms and legs which were reported to be self-inflicted. Brittany denied suicidal intent, and it was determined that an inpatient psychiatric hospitalization was not warranted.

*Case 2:* Davian is a sixteen-year old transgender African American male who has just received his third seven-day notice from a group home in six months. Although he is currently placed under probation supervision, he was originally under child welfare supervision. Prior to removal, Davian lived with his biological father who is reportedly an alcoholic. Davian's mother left the family when Davian was six-years old due to repeat episodes of domestic violence. Davian's mother is living out of state and is remarried with two new children. Davian has irregular phone contact with his mother and has only seen her once since she left the family. Davian was arrested twice previously for terrorist threats on group home staff and public drunkenness and was just arrested a third time with charges for public drunkenness and property damage in the group home.

*Case 3:* Destiny is an eleven-year old African American female who entered foster care after requiring treatment for chlamydia which she contracted from her stepfather who reportedly sexually abused her repeatedly since the age of five or six. Destiny's mother has stated she believes Destiny seduced her husband, and that it is Destiny's fault that he has been incarcerated and the family has lost its source of income. Destiny's foster parents recently requested her removal after she was caught giving oral sex to the foster parents four-year old son.

*Case 4:* Carlos is a fifteen-year old Latino male who first entered the foster care system at the age of eleven due to parental substance abuse. He and his three younger siblings had been left unattended for several days while their mother was off on a drug binge. Parental rights have been terminated, and Carlos and one of his siblings live with their maternal grandmother, and the other two siblings are living in close proximity with a paternal aunt. The relatives are long term resources for the children, but have not wanted to adopt due to their hope that Carlos' mother will recover and regain her capacity to care for the children. Carlos excels in academics and was also a gifted athlete. Carlos, however, is currently hospitalized due to a traumatic spinal cord injury. He is now quadriplegic, wheelchair-bound, and dependent on a tracheostomy and ventilator. Carlos' language skills and overall cognitive functioning remain intact. Two weeks ago, Carlos' grandmother called the social worker requesting he be moved as she has surgery scheduled at the end of the month and will be unable to physically care for him. The social worker has been unable to find a foster home, and is planning placement in a group home several hours away.