

CONRAD

Your student is a 16 year old white male who was referred by the Probation Department after an arrest for cannabis possession and probation violation. Conrad is enrolled at the Alternative School and has just completed his sophomore year. He lives in the home with his parents and two siblings; a 12 year old sister and 9 year old brother. His father is currently deployed to Iraq in the US Army and his mother works to support the family.

Conrad reports skipping school a lot in the last year due to his cannabis use and "drinking beer with his buddies." Although he indicated that he had missed a lot of school, he successfully completed 10th grade and was promoted. In the past three years, he has been arrested or detained by juvenile authorities four times for possession, public intoxication, disorderly conduct and a probation violation. All of his legal history involves his usage of alcohol or marijuana.

Conrad reported his first use of marijuana was at age 13 with some friends and that the use has escalated since that time to daily usage. His friends all "use" and they get into trouble together "all the time." He stated that the cops in the neighborhood know him and his friends and look for them when anything bad happens. He last smoked marijuana yesterday and drank beer at the same time. His parents have been concerned to the point of having him see a psychiatrist and threatening to send him to a military school. Conrad admits that his usage is "out of hand" at this time and he needs some help.

He plays sports in school both soccer and lacrosse. He feels the marijuana gets in the way of his stamina but that drinking beer is not really a big deal. His parents both drink in the home and allow him to have a beer with them occasionally. Conrad was the "only child" until his second sibling was born 4 years later. He enjoyed being the "little prince" in his family until his younger sister was born. He has felt she took over as the favorite child because she is very cute and very smart while he struggles in school and gets into trouble. He was diagnosed at 9 with ADHD and has taken medications since that time to help him control his behavior and focus his attention.

When Conrad was 11 he was hospitalized due to an injury sustained from skate boarding. He was doing tricks and fell about 9 feet landing head first on the concrete. He sustained a concussion and a broken arm, broken collar bone and bruised ribs. He was given pain medications which he remembers enjoying a lot. There is no history of mental illness or other serious physical injuries.

Conrad is cooperative and indicated an interest in seeking treatment for his marijuana and drinking issues. The conflict has escalated with his mother to the point she is ready to send him away to military school or to live with an aunt. He reported some minor physiological symptoms of withdrawal when he does not have access to marijuana; none relative to the drinking. He indicated that is he is often sad and misses his father a lot.

Conrad appeared to be cooperative and willing to participate in treatment for his drinking and marijuana usage. He stated that he would like to have new friends who do not use. He indicated that he wants to complete high school and get a good job in construction. He indicated that he does not get along well with his mother. His dad was his best buddy and they spent a lot of time together before he left for active duty. His mother spends more time with the younger children and he feels "left out" of many of their activities. Conrad indicated that he has difficulty making friends and feels shy and withdrawn from other kids his age. The peer group he spends most of his time with are the "bad kids" who get into trouble.

The Probation Department has advised Conrad that this will be his last chance before they send him to detention. While he doesn't want to disappoint his father, he mentioned that detention might be good for him so he would learn how to control his behavior.