

## JUVENILE STORIES

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### Haley's Story

At seventeen-years-old, Haley was raised in an upper class family, with both parents and two younger siblings. She is currently on probation for Theft \$50-\$500.

After an abusive event on vacation several months ago involving her father, Haley attempted to kill herself by jumping in front of a car on a highway near her home. Although she had several broken bones, she lived through the attempt. She was recently arrested outside a pawn shop after stealing jewelry from a high end store. She told the arresting officer she needed money to buy a gun because she "was done with life."

The remark about why she needed a gun was not conveyed by the arresting officer and she denied suicidal thoughts or behaviors during the initial interview. At the initial meeting, you determine there were no indicators to warrant a referral for mental health services. Students at school reportedly avoid Haley because they believe she acts different. She does not seem to be close to anyone and does not get along with her siblings. Haley does have one friend, Stephanie, from her old neighborhood but because the family moved, she doesn't have transportation to visit her. At the last office visit, Haley's mom reported Haley was not eating meals, but thinks Haley is just being a typical difficult teenager. When asked, Haley said she just doesn't have an appetite. After conducting a school visit, you learn she has been sleeping in class and was assigned to detention after school.

You ask Haley if she is suicidal and she says no. You ask her parents again about her behavior and they say Haley is being dramatic; they don't believe anything is wrong with her. Later that evening, Haley's mom calls and tells you she discovered Haley, with a radio cord wrapped around her neck, barely responsive.

### David's Story

David, a fifteen-year-old, is on probation for Assault with Bodily Injury. He is currently at the Juvenile Detention Center due to a recent arrest for a second Assault with Bodily Injury, which allegedly occurred at school. David resides with his mother and three siblings and before being placed on probation, did not have a history of aggressive behavior. For the last few weeks though, you have received several phone calls from the school, noting that David had gotten into several verbal altercations with other students at school.

Before visiting with David in detention, you review the results of his MAYSI-2 and discover he scored a warning for suicide ideation. You meet with him and he is withdrawn and sad. While talking, he tells you he did get into a physical fight at school and was suspended for three days. David also said his father was supposed to pick him up last weekend, but he didn't show up. From your experience with David's father, he has not played an active role in David's life.

As you and David continue talking, you discover his girlfriend recently broke up with him, which is something he had not mentioned before. He and his girlfriend have a 6-month-old baby boy and David has not had much contact with him. David actually tells you he is happy he is in detention because his baby and everyone else are probably better off without him. You ask him what he means by that and he tells you he was just kidding.