

## Jessica Brown and Foster Mother Candice Clark (Second Contact)

**Setting: Cell phone conversation—first with Candice, then with Jessica**

*Candice:* Yeah, Jessica does think I'm really cool. At times, she may think we're more friends than anything else. We do keep it pretty friendly, but I'm not her "friend" when she breaks the rules. I set a curfew for her. But the first week she was here she climbed out the window and stayed out until midnight. That got her grounded for a week. We had a talk about what can happen when you stay out late and no one knows where you are. Jessica hasn't broken curfew again. She's knows I'm the boss and I have to protect her. So, no...I'm not her friend and I'm not a pushover. I'm her parent; that's my role in her life.

Sometimes she even calls me "Mom." She wants her mother to love and accept her as she is. Helen won't do that, or maybe she can't, and I know that's so painful for Jessica, that rejection. But I do love her just as she is. I don't need her to be different—I accept her. I kind of adore her if you want to know the truth. Not that she doesn't drive me crazy sometimes, but I worry about her too. I know she has some work to do to sort all this out, and who can blame her. I'm so glad she's seeing Dr. Felix.

Here, talk to Jessica, she's right here.

*Jessica:* Mom was nothing like Candice. With Candice I always know where the lines are. I may sometimes choose to cross those lines (giggles), but I already know what will happen if I do. Mom was kind of crazy to live with. She would ignore me for weeks, whatever I was doing. Then—boom!—she'd fly off the handle.

Is my mom supportive? Are you kidding? Are you hearing me? Hello! I mean, she fed me and all, but she doesn't support me emotionally.

What do I want? I want to feel safe. It has been years since I felt safe at home and I love feeling like that now. I didn't know what I was missing.

- What are your follow-up questions?