

Jessica Brown and School Guidance Counselor: Kenya Scott

Setting: High school guidance office

Kenya: We have a couple of openly lesbian and gay students in this school. Ten years ago I hadn't even heard of high schoolers being so open about their sexual orientation. I talked with the LGBTQ Center at the U. There's an amazing amount of information on the web, and Lambda Legal has some great materials they give away for free.

I'm worried about Jessica graduating. I just hope I can keep her in school. That's a big challenge for these kids; many drop out. Of my three lesbian and gay kids, none of them are seniors. I can think back and remember some kids who probably were gay, but I wasn't aware of it at the time. Once they drop out—or get kicked out of home—they can end up living on the street, maybe even doing sex work to survive. Even if they escape that fate, the economy and world we live in isn't kind to those without a high school diploma.

Jessica is waiting outside. This was her study-hall period and she wanted to be included. Jessica, would you please come in?

Kenya: Jessica, I want to talk about your mood issues. I think it's important for your CASA/GAL volunteer to know that you've been struggling with depression and possibly PTSD.

Jessica: I have been seeing Dr. Felix.

Kenya: How do you like him?

Jessica: I like Dr. Felix. He understands me. He didn't say anything about PTSD though. That's your thing.

Kenya: What else do you want your CASA/GAL volunteer to know?

Jessica: I want Candice to adopt me. I just don't think I can survive living with my mom. It's really bad. We always fight. I can never be the daughter she wants. I don't think she really loves me; she's just too embarrassed to give me up. That wouldn't look good.

- What difference does this interview make to the case?
- What are your follow-up questions?