

Patricia-Practice Test

Patricia is a 21-year-old female who was presented at an emergency shelter because she left her mother's home and had no place to go. This is Patricia's fourth visit to the shelter--all four visits have been because of her volatile relationship with her family.

Patricia did well academically and graduated from high school. She participated in an alternative day treatment program last year where she attended school on grounds and she received individual counseling on a daily basis. Patricia excelled, so she was placed into an honors program and was allowed to take some culinary courses for which she could receive college credits. Patricia reported that she is very interested in becoming a chef.

Patricia has been working as a cocktail waitress at a local club since turning 21. She is generally well liked at work by her boss and co-workers, but has gotten in trouble on one or two occasions recently for some absenteeism.

Patricia lives with her mother, her stepfather, and her 2 year-old daughter, of whom Patricia's mother has legal custody. Patricia's younger brother and older sister also reside in the home. Both Patricia's brother and sister are high school drop-outs, and Patricia's sister is reported to be a stripper in an area club. Patricia's stepfather is an evening custodian at the local high school and her mother works at an eye clinic during the day. Patricia's mother regularly refers to Patricia's "good Catholic upbringing" and the family's "religious grounding". Patricia attends church services with the family when she is at home. Prior to her most recent emergency placement, Patricia's parents allowed Patricia to continue living in the home so that she can bond with and care for her daughter. Recently, however, they have expressed the opinion that they cannot take Patricia back into the home until they see a permanent change in her behavior. They wish for Patricia to seek treatment for substance abuse and get a place of her own.

Patricia reports drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana almost daily. She has been in substance abuse treatment previously and was regularly tested for alcohol and drugs. She consistently had negative results until she dropped out of treatment six months ago. She recognizes that she has a problem but does not feel that she can deal with it until she "gets her life situation straightened out".

Patricia's mother is the primary disciplinarian in the home, thus all of Patricia's rage is directed towards her mother. Patricia is reported to be verbally abusive towards her mother, especially when she doesn't get her way. There was one instance when her aggression became physical. Her mother was not hurt, but ever since the incident she has been frightened when Patricia becomes angry. It is reported that Patricia regularly argues with her mother, repeatedly and stays out until 3:00 or 4:00 AM (even after the club where she works closes). Sometimes she does not return home for days at a time. It is reported that Patricia goes outside on the porch to smoke and leaves the house without telling anyone where she is going. Patricia reports that she is single, and says that she spends most of her free time with her friends. They enjoy going to movies, playing cards, and "hanging out". Patricia's mother does not think that her friends are a good influence on her and believes that they encourage Patricia's drug and alcohol use.

Patricia and her mother were involved in weekly family counseling for about six months to address the anger that Patricia directs towards her mother. Patricia and her mother made significant progress in this area and they both reported that their arguing had diminished and Patricia's behavior had improved. Patricia's behavior again began to deteriorate in the past two months. Patricia reported no thoughts of suicide or homicidal ideations although she has grown increasingly impulsive and angry in the last few months.