

Case Study 4: Tina's Family

Tina is a 14-year-old who is looking forward to attending high school in the upcoming year. She is an honor student, but wishes she could be more involved in extra-curricular activities at school. On the weekends she usually attends Mass, and most of her social life revolves around her church weekend activities. Usually she must go home directly from school to take care of her younger twin brother and sister while her mother, who is widowed, works during the evening shift as a unit secretary in a local hospital.

On a regular basis, a family friend comes over to help out. He was a friend of Tina's Mom and Dad and was extremely supportive during Tina's father's terminal illness and after his recent death. He often brought the family groceries, loaned them money, helped them pay bills, and sometimes made repairs in the home. Usually, he visited when Tina's Mom was at home. However, recently he began showing up while Tina's Mom was at work. He would play with Janie and Tommy, Tina's eight year old brother and sister. Often he helped them with their homework. He asked the children not to tell Tina's mom that he was coming by because he wanted their improvements in grades to be a surprise to her. After the twins went to bed, the friend usually left, but after a while he would stay and watch television with Tina or ask her if she needed help. His visits became more frequent, he became friendlier and increasingly more familiar with Tina.

After hugging Tina good night, he began to touch her inappropriately and eventually forced her to have intercourse with him. Tina was terrified, confused, and dismayed. She was afraid to tell her mother because she thought she had done something wrong. In school she could not concentrate and most days she was very tired. One particular school day Tina passed out and was transported to the local hospital. She had a preliminary pregnancy test verifying that Tina was pregnant.

8:00-10:00 am

- Tina passes out at school and the ambulance transports her to the ER.
- Mom is called and meets Tina at the ER.
- Janie and Tommy are at school but concerned because they knew Tina passed out.

10:00 am-12:00 pm Hospital Scene

- Tina meets with social worker.
- Mom meets with Registration to sign consents.

12:00-2:00 pm

- Tina and mom meet with SANE nurse.
- Mom contacts "friend" to pick-up Janie and Tommy at school.

2:00-4:00 pm

- Tina states that it was “friend” who raped her.
- “Friend,” Janie and Tommy arrive at the hospital.

4:00-6:00 pm

- Social worker meets with Tina and mom.

6:00-8:00 pm

- Tina has an appointment at “Reproductive Health Clinic.”

Community Agencies

- Bus passes
- School/secretary
- 911
- Hospital
- Reproductive Health clinic
- Social worker
- SANE nurse
- Registrar at hospital