

## MODULE 4 - VIGNETTE

Mother's Name: **Jackie**                      Father's Name: **Kendrid**  
Children's Names, Gender, Age: **Elise, F-13; Ramey, F-8**  
Child/Family Ethnicity: African-American

Family Description: Jackie (33) has two daughters by her husband, Kendrid (35), who left the family shortly after Ramey's birth. Kendrid lives in a neighboring city and remains in monthly contact with his children, but he refuses to talk to their mother, in person or on the phone. He works to support himself and sends money occasionally.

Presenting Issues: Jackie has a number of serious health problems that leave her physically weak and unable to meet her daughters' needs or maintain appropriate parenting boundaries, at times being bedridden. Jackie and her daughters live on her disability benefits and whatever Kendrid occasionally sends. Elise, 13, is described as an aggressive child, unable to establish appropriate social boundaries in her interactions with other people. She has been kicked off the school bus three times this year for fighting with other students. Jackie's medical records suggest that she may have suffered from post-partum depression following both births, and current clinical observations include depression. Domestic violence was reported by neighbors and other family members, but Jackie has denied any violence in the home. She has tried to provide a good home for her daughters but states that she frequently is so debilitated by her medical problems that she has no energy left over to be a parent, taking to her bed for days at a time. When asked specific questions about parenting situations, Jackie appears to know what to do but says she just cannot always do it. Kendrid says he cannot cope with Jackie's behaviors and that he has no difficulties when Elise visits him (3-4 times per year).

Elise has become steadily more aggressive as she has aged, a process that accelerated as she entered puberty. She has physically and verbally dominated her younger sister, Ramey, although she has also cared for her sister when Jackie was completely debilitated. The family recently received in-home family stabilization services but records indicate discontinuance due to non-compliance with treatment and a lack of positive outcomes. Jackie states that her sister has "given up on me" because of her difficulties raising her daughter.

Treatment/Service/Support History: Jackie states that she never sought nor received treatment for depression. She believes the doctors have not yet found the cause of her physical weakness and pain and that her mental state is simply a reaction to her health problems. Jackie says she relies on pain medication. The juvenile court has recommended placement for Elise in a residential treatment program, while her guardian ad litem has advocated against such a placement, describing it as an unnecessary overreaction to her needs. Elise and her mother have not been actively involved in any services, other than the unsuccessful in-home family stabilization program, and Kendrid has never participated in any services with them. Elise is currently living in shelter foster care, and her mother continues to say that she wants Elise back, if she can maintain better control over her. Her father said he could not both work and supervise her, so he refused her placement with him.