

Shelter Decision Exercise

Ann is single, 42 and was a former shelter resident 10 years ago when she was addicted to heroin. Her previous shelter stay ended poorly when she overdosed and was taken to the hospital by ambulance. She went into rehab and has since been clean for 9 years. Her current partner is Debra, 31. Debra tried to strangle Ann and she passed out. Ann woke up in the hospital. She is being discharged today and does not want to return home.

Maria is a 26 year old mother of 3 children under the age of 6. Maria is an undocumented resident from Honduras and speaks little English. Her partner is Sean, father of the three children, and American born. Sean keeps Maria locked in the house all day, beats her with a shoe or belt at least once per week, wakes her up and forces her to have sex on a regular basis, and during the last fight, the youngest child was knocked into a table by Maria when she tried to avoid Sean's blows. Maria has no friends or family in the city. She is at her Pediatrician's office for a well-child visit and the 5 year old started telling the Doctor what is going on at home.

Joy is a 32 year old single trans female. She has been living with Shyla for the last six months after being evicted from her apartment when the landlord discovered she was born male. Joy and Shyla started off as platonic friends, but as time went on, Shyla began pressuring Joy into sexual acts and verbally and emotionally abusing her when she would not agree. Most recently, Joy woke up to find Shyla performing oral sex on her. Joy threw Shyla off of her and a huge fight ensued. Shyla grabbed a knife and Joy fled the house. She is calling from the homeless shelter, crying, because they want her to stay on the men's side of the shelter.

Dwayne is a 40 year old man. He has been married for 12 years and his wife, Lauren, has been verbally abusive to him for much of their marriage. Lately, she began hitting him when they argue. Dwayne was recently in an accident, which left him unable to work. During their last argument, Lauren grabbed a kitchen knife and was threatening Dwayne with it. Worried and feeling unable to protect himself due to his accident, Dwayne took the car and drove to a police station.