

Basic Information:

Your client is a 16 year old female.

She and her family emigrated to RI just a few years ago from the capital city of Minsk in the country of Belarus.

She is the oldest of three siblings. Her younger brother is 14 and her sister is 12.

Presenting Problem:

Your client has quickly and happily adjusted to life in the US. However, this has created significant conflict between her and her traditional, restrictive parents. Significant conflict has erupted on numerous occasions, especially between your client and her father.

Your client has been on a course of behavior involving escalating risk-taking and progressively more dangerous acting out. Her parents fear that she is sexually active and may be experimenting with drugs. She was referred by the juvenile court system following her first involvement with the legal system. Apparently she was arrested at a party and charged with underage drinking and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Her parents are embarrassed, concerned, and furiously angry with her. They also fear for the example she is setting for her younger siblings. As a result, they have been more domineering and restrictive than usual in an attempt to get their eldest daughter under control. It appears that this strategy is backfiring.

Additional Information:

Upon meeting this client you are struck by how thin she is. She talks a great deal about American culture and how much she loves it here. Upon consulting with her parents you learn that she has lost a significant amount of weight over the past three months or so. This coincides with her increase in acting out behaviors.

She also disparages her home country, and her parents, at every opportunity. She complains that her father is trying to control her life. She reveals that she has considered running away from home in order to get away from his "old country" rules.