

Basic Information:

Your client is a 4 year old boy who is referred by his mother.

The family is of Italian descent. They have been practicing Catholics for generations.

He is a precocious, intelligent child who appears to be at or ahead of his peers regarding typical developmental expectations.

Presenting Problem:

The boy's parents are nearing the completion of divorce proceedings. The process has been painful for both parents and at times tempers have flared in front of your client. There was one reported incident of physical violence on the part of the father, but no formal charges were ever filed. Your young client was present at the time of this alleged event.

Mother reports that her son has become withdrawn and moody over the past several weeks. Treatment was sought at this time because her concern escalated when she discovered he had been smearing feces on the walls and furniture in his bedroom. In addition, she reports that he has been aggressive and rough with the family dog in ways that are unusual and concerning.

In the first session the mother also reports that she has recently begun getting calls from the boy's preschool with reports of physical aggression toward the other children during unstructured play periods.

Additional Information:

Mother is college-educated and works as a paralegal in a large law firm.

Father is a successful small business owner who works long hours six or more days per week.