

## Maria's Background

Maria Lee is a 33 year old divorced woman with 2 children, Shane (6 year old) and Jessica (8 year old) daughter. She just moved with them to a 2 bedroom apt in Shakopee after she was evicted from their previous apt in South Minneapolis because of the chaos surrounding her last hospitalization.

Maria was working waiting tables until two years ago, since then she hasn't worked for more than a few weeks in a row. Maria grew up as the 5th of 7 children in North Dakota where her siblings still live. She lived with her paternal grandparents from age 10 to 15 because of her mother's depression. She graduated from high school and moved to Minnesota to attend community college but only finished 1 semester. Her father and grandparents are dead from smoking related illnesses. Her mother lives with Maria's brother and sister in turns.

Her ex-husband Jim lives in Maplewood with his girlfriend and their 9 month old daughter. Their divorce was fairly amicable and for the first couple of years, Shane and Jessica visited him two weekends a month. Since the baby's birth, he only takes Jessica and Shane to visit for a few hours every other weekend. He is intermittently employed.

Jessica and Shane both did well in the previous school. Since their mid-year transfer, Shane has been missing school frequently because of illness. He often complains bitterly of headache or nausea which disappears after he is allowed to stay home with his mother. The school social worker and Maria agree that he is afraid that Maria will be gone when he gets home (as happened when she was hospitalized).

Maria is still close to her mother-in-law, who comes to her apartment to take care of Shane and Jessica during her hospitalizations. They share an interest in crafts – particularly knitting; she and her mother-in-law are active contributors to Afghans for Afghans and other charity knitting projects. When she lived in St. Paul, Maria regularly joined other knitters at a local craft store for community knitting nights – she hasn't found anything similar in Shakopee yet.

Maria also volunteers at her children's school occasionally to help the children get ready for recess and assist the teachers in handing out and clearing up classroom materials. She has just begun reading aloud sometimes to Shane's kindergarten class.

She was diagnosed with major depressive disorder a few months after Shane was born but has not had consistent medical or psychiatric care because they have moved so much and she has to change doctors to whichever clinic is closest (she doesn't have a car).

About a year ago she decompensated when she learned that Jim's girlfriend was pregnant and was hospitalized for several weeks for medication adjustment.

Her most recent hospitalization (fairly brief) was for after a suicide attempt - she had a psychotic depression triggered by cortisone that she was prescribed by the emergency room physician to control an exacerbation of her asthma (caused by not refilling her controller medication).

During this last hospital stay, her blood sugar was high. The doctors thought that it might be from the cortisone, and strongly recommended that she have it evaluated after returned home.

Source of referral: Psych discharge planner