

Assessment 1: Case Study Part 1

Instructions

You are working as a Corrective Services Officer at the Locks Prison. You have been working there for about two years and are familiar with the Corrective Services policies and procedures, particularly in relation to conflict management and negotiation.

Read the **Case Study Part 1** and complete the **Day 1 Incident Report Template**.

Case Study Part 1

You are responsible for area 'Block A' for the next two days. There is one inmate, Betty Smith, who is classified as 'high risk'. You familiarise yourself with the notes and history of her case and time in custody to prepare for work and any possible conflict situations that might arise.

*(See **Inmate Case Notes** below)*

You go to Cell 44 where Betty is located to advise her that a DOCS Caseworker has come to speak to her in the Visits area to discuss contact with the children. When you arrive at the cell you observe Betty pacing up and down and mumbling to herself. You advise her that you are outside the door and need to speak to her. You ask her to step away from the door as you open it. When you enter you tell her that a DOCS Caseworker called Cindy Parker is in the Visits area and she wants to speak with you.

Betty gets really upset and starts yelling and saying she hates Cindy: she is the one that took the kids. She gets angrier and angrier, and directs the abuse at you. Telling you that you are part of the problem and that she will 'get you as well'.

Inmate Case Notes

Inmate: Betty Smith (ID 9876544)

D.O.B.: 13/03/1980

Imprisonment sentence: Nine years and nine months (NPP 8 years, 2 months)

Ethnicity: Aboriginal

Charge: Armed Robbery

Date sentence to commence: 24 August 2015

Prison classification: 'High Risk'.

This is the second time Betty has been in prison for a serious matter of personal violence. Due to issues during her last custodial sentence she has been classified as 'high risk', specifically aggressive outburst, an assault against a Prison Officer and an attempt at self-harm. Welfare must do additional checks to ensure she is safe.

Background notes

Betty was remanded into custody a week ago after a failed attempt at residential rehabilitation whilst on bail and before her sentence hearing. Betty has a long history of drug dependency (heroin, marijuana, ice), which has contributed to her offending behaviour. Her robbery charge had been listed for sentence to give her a chance to complete the residential rehabilitation program and for that to be taken into account at sentence. Unfortunately after leaving the rehab centre she relapsed and has been on a heavy ice bender up until the day of sentence. She was effectively detoxing when she arrived and has been in the 'horrors'. Things have stabilised but she is still prone to aggressive outbursts and emotionally breaking down.

Family background

Betty has had a difficult life, in and out of foster care and abused as a child. She started taking drugs early in life and ended up in Juvenile Detention for the first time at 11 years old. She has been in a number of domestic violent relationships with issues around co-dependency and drug use. Since her last release from custody she had been making efforts to improve her life to try and regain custody of her four children (aged 1, 4, 7 and 9). DOCS has been involved due to the family violence and drug use.

Psychological history

Betty has a long history of involvement with mental health service providers in the community and whilst in prison. A recent report from psychologist Terry Jones from AMS indicated that the removal of the little baby really tipped Betty over this last time and he has strong concerns about her mental health and whether she may need to go on medication to assist her with

the transition into custody, particularly as it is such a long sentence. He has a long history of working with Betty, wrote a report for the sentence hearing and also helped her getting into rehabilitation.

Contact information

Prison Psychiatrist: Mrs Sally Short (02) 6332 4545.

Prison Psychologist: Mr John Stamp (02) 6332 4567.

Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS) Psychologist: Terry Jones (02) 9365 6000.

Next of kin: Aunt Mary Smith – no number (Terry may be able to help contact her).

DOCS Caseworker: Cindy Parker (02) 9240 3232.

Corrective Services Managing Supervisor: Trevor Todd (extension 4321).

Welfare office: extension 4333.