

Practice Guidelines:
Confidentiality, Information Sharing & Supportive Advocacy

Case Study: Teisha

Hi, I'm Teisha. I don't like talking about myself, but I need you to know what happened. I would never hurt my baby Sophy -- she's my life. The day she was born was the happiest day for me. She's five now.

Cris – he's my baby's father. He's never really been there for her. He'd never buy her nothing, not diapers, nothing. When he did pay attention all he'd do was tell her to shut up and yell at her to stop crying. He'd just stand over her when she was sleeping. He'd tell her how she'd ruined his life. I'd tell him to leave her alone and he'd get mad and sometimes he'd hit me – but I can deal with that as long as he doesn't do anything to her. You know I just have a beer and deal with it.

I don't have a job but sometimes I can work off the books for a restaurant where I know the manager. She calls when someone doesn't come in. I need that money to make it. So, one day I get a call to come in. My Mom usually watches Sophy but she couldn't watch her the whole time because she had to go to work too. I told Cris he'd have to watch her. I got everything ready for him so it would be easy.

When I got home from work I could hear Sophy crying. I found her all alone locked in the bathroom. She had a burn on her leg. Just when I got her quieted down, Cris came in. I just lost it. I started screaming at him and throwing things. Do what you want to me but you don't touch my kid. That's when he knocked me down and started kicking me. Somehow I managed to grab Sophy and run out of the house.