

Dialogue Scenarios

1.) - You are a 22-year-old single mother of two that is considering getting food stamps for the first time. Both of your parents have disowned you because you decided to drop out of college so that you could provide for your children. You have been raised to believe that “only losers need welfare” and are struggling with taking care of the needs of your family. You are requesting the services of a social worker to give you your “best options available”.

2.) - You are the parent of a child who is having a hard time adjusting at school because her religion does allow her to do many of the activities all the other kids do (music, dress, celebrating birthday). With Halloween quickly approaching, the disappointment of your child is beginning to “wear” on your emotions. You want your child to be happy among her peers but you also want to teach your child the importance of your religious beliefs. You are requesting the services of a social worker to help you “feel better about what’s best for my child”.

3.) - You are a nurse at a hospital who has been sexually harassed by a patient. You just recently got this job after being on the job market for 6 months. You really think that you should report the incident, but a similar situation at your last job ended up with you getting fired. You are requesting the services of a social worker to help you “decide where I should go with this”.

4.) - You are an investment banker that recently lost most of your family’s savings during the recent financial crisis. Due to the losses, you have become depressed. The strain of the financial problems combined with the depression has placed a significant strain on your marriage - so much so that your spouse has hinted at divorce -. You are requesting the services of “someone that can help” you “keep things together”.

5.) - You are a single parent and your only child has just left home for their first semester of college. Your child earned a scholarship to an out of state university that is 1000 miles away from you. Although you are extremely proud of your child you have been feeling more and more “lonely” and “sad” lately now that your “nest is empty for the first time in 18 years”. You are requesting the help of a social worker to help you “deal with” your emotions.

6.) - You are a mechanic that has recently been let off by your employer due to cutbacks at your place of employment. You have been a dedicated employee for over 10 years and cannot believe that you were one of the unlucky ones asked to leave the job. You’ve found yourself frustrated to the point of panic and despair and think that it might be best for you to talk to someone before you “do something you might eventually regret”.

7.) - You are a university graduate student that has found yourself becoming more and more “anxious” the further you get along in your academic program. Your grades are “okay”, but your “nerves” are on the verge of panic. You are requesting the help of a social worker to assist you “get things together before it’s too late”.

8.) - You are a hurricane evacuee that has recently decided to stay permanently here in Little Rock. You are “uncomfortable” in your new surroundings because you “just don’t know anybody” and feel “targeted” and “looked down upon” because the only people you’ve met so far only associate you with their view of all the other evacuees. You are frustrated in your new surroundings and need the help of a social worker.

9.) - You are a wife and mother of three that is a homemaker. You have also just decided to go back to school to finish your degree. You haven’t been in a classroom in ten years and now you are faced with the prospect of being a struggling college student who is struggling balancing the duties of home and school. Your husband has “been understanding”, but you feel badly that you are having a hard time “maintaining the wifely duties of the household”. You are requesting the services of a social worker to provide you with guidance as you go through the transition of juggling college and home.

10.) - You are a former high school athlete who was the most popular member of your graduating class. You were also elected student body president and voted by your peers as “the person most likely to succeed”. Ten years later, you consider yourself an “unemployed, pitiful, college dropout”, who has been “nothing but a disappointment”. Although you have the love and support of your immediate family, you believe that you have not lived up to your ability. Your ten year reunion is approaching and you are “depressed” and “a little anxious” about the big event. You are requesting the help of a social worker to help you “get a better handle on things”.