

Dr. Glass:

After proper assessments are completed Pete might also be diagnosed with Conduct Disorder. The narrative provided indicates that by his Junior High School years several problematic behaviors were noted such as: cruelty towards animals, truancy and aggression towards people. The DSM-V requires that the individual continually display problematic behaviors that infringe on the rights of others in the society. There are 15 criteria and the diagnosis requires at least 5 be met during a 12 month period and at least one in the last 6 months (469,468). The narrative indicates that by age 14 the misdemeanors had worsened. Without further assessment it is cannot be clear whether or not Pete meets the criteria for Conduct Disorder.

One might also take into consideration the possibility that Pete might also be experiencing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder due to abuse that he experienced as a small child . The separation from his birth mother at the age of 2 and subsequent placement with an abusive adoptive family might have also resulted in early diagnosis of Reactive Attachment Disorder. He reportedly did not communicate with his new adoptive parents following placement with them after suffering the abuse. For years after, his relationship with his adoptive parents was difficult. The DSM-V indicates as part of the criteria for the diagnosis of Reactive Attachment Disorder is a consistently, emotionally distant relationship with the adult caregiver and examples of how manifests are indicated. (265)

Following the diagnosing of Pete, a therapeutic plan can be devised. Even though he was quickly adopted by a new family, where no abuse is reported, the memories and possible scars from previous abuse might fester in his mind.interpersonal psychotherapy (IPT) and cognitive behavioral therapy might prove helpful in helping Pete to resolve some of his depression and to address his unconscious feelings stemming from

early child abuse and being placed for adoption. He will also need drug therapy to address his use of various illicit substances.