

Case Example

- A. Identifying Information: 13 yrs. old African American male born in the US. He lives with his mother, stepfather, and a 5 yrs. old brother. He is in the eighth grade; he is due to graduate in June 2023. He has taken school exams for specialized high schools. He currently has no extracurricular activities.
- B. Chief Complaint: His mother complains he has stopped communicating with his family. His behavior has changed toward his family and in school. He constantly gets into problems with authority at school. There are many times he is on detention. His mother states that when she asks him to do something there's always a resistance.
- C. History of Present Illness:
- a. Emotional Symptoms: He appears to be troubled by the separation from his father and the verbal abuse of his stepfather.
  - b. Cognitive Symptoms: He does have problems concentrating and making decisions.
  - c. Behavioral Symptoms: He constantly challenges his mother when she asks him to do something, and he does the same with his teachers.
  - d. Physiological Symptoms: He has a habit of constantly playing with the locks in his hair. No history of physical abuse
- D. Parent-Child Attachment History: He feels distant from his mother and closer to his grandmother. He does not have a bond with his stepfather because pf how the stepfather trys to parent him with threats.
- E. Childhood Trauma: His biological father married another woman and moved out of the country in the past year in a half. His stepfather is verbally abusive.
- F. Psychiatric History: He has been diagnosed with depression.

G. Personal and Social History: He was in therapy one year ago for the same problem of not communicating with his family and becoming academically unstable.

H. Medical History: No past or current medical history

1. DSM Diagnoses: Dysthymia