

Win K-12 Case Study

Case Details

Fourteen-year-old Win is a student in 9th grade. His parents have a long history of domestic violence toward each other. Win is the oldest of three siblings and the family has moved around several times after financial troubles (his father had numerous back surgeries) and social service reports of abuse and neglect. His father often yells and screams at Win, upset at him playing video games all the time. Both parents have had previous legal conflicts, and his mother has had several drug arrests. His father has tried to get him outside more though, and involved with hunting.

Win IS teased by other students at school and is having a difficult time. He is often teased and called “gay.”

During the spring of his 8th grade year, his parents separated, with his mother posting on social media, “I’ve finally taken that step to leave my abusive husband of 14 years. It wasn’t easy, but we will make it.”

Later that month, school officials reported that Win had made a threat concerning a school shooting. The threat was made on his Discord account and said “im committing a mass shooting and im waiting a good 2-3 years, I cant kill myself yet, cause I’m not contributing anything to culture I need to go out knowing I did.” Win posted references to Adam Lanza and frustration that transgender people were being accepted into society.

Win was interviewed by local police and no charges were filed. His father explained to police that there were hunting rifles in the house, but they were secured. Win’s father purchased him an AR-15 style rifle this past Christmas and has taken him shooting several times in the spring and summer. The father said he hoped hunting would “toughen him up.”

Just yesterday, Win posted this picture on his social media. You’ve been asked to complete a violence risk assessment.

Questions to Consider

- What are some of the primary risks you see in this case?
- What type of assessment(s) would be best in this scenario (psychological, triage, violence risk, threat assessment)?
- Would you characterize the threats as transient or substantive in nature? What questions would you need to ask to help with this appraisal?
- Would this case be better understood as an affective or targeted violence motivation?
- What supports might be useful to explore for this case?
- What additional information would be useful to complete an assessment and engage in risk mitigation planning?
- What general level of risk would you assign to the case (low, moderate, high)?

