

### **First Case Example: Ruggy—For Your Own Good**

Ruggy is a three-year-old girl who had witnessed the murder of her own mother, being raped and murdered. She has her own throat cut, twice, and is left for dead. She is alone with her dead mother's body for eleven hours in their apartment. Then, she's taken to the hospital and has the wounds on her neck treated. In the hospital, the physicians recommend ongoing mental health evaluation. But after she's released, she's placed in a foster home as a ward of the state. And the details of the child's experiences are never shared with the foster families because she is in hiding. Despite the doctor's recommendations, she didn't get any mental health help.

Now, almost a year later, the prosecution wanted her to testify about it. People are concerned that this might be pretty overwhelming for her. What would you do if you are a counselor for Ruggy?

Hint/Tip: tried to imagine the crime she'd witnessed from her perspective.

Symptoms: physical, mental, emotional symptoms

What would be the most salient symptoms?

1. What they have missed during "sensitive periods" of development, early childhood? Identify critical deficiencies that the child might have missed.

Assess the child across the SPECS of normal development.

SPECS—Social, Physical, Emotional, Cognitive, and Sexual Development

2. What would be core symptoms and issues? Refer to Behavioral impact of maltreatment, textbook, and lecture materials.
3. What questions do you have in order to develop interventions—care and counseling plan? Describe the first interview or meeting.
4. Based on those deficiencies, describe your care plan. What would you do to help the child? How would you intervene the issues? How long do you think it will take for any progress to be made? As time goes, how the symptoms and issues will progress?