

# Final Research Paper Case Plan Vignette: Martha

Martha reported to the probation office on the day she was released from prison. Martha served a 4-year term of imprisonment in the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) for conspiracy with intent to distribute methamphetamine. Martha was giving a 30-day supply of her medication and reports she will plan to stay in a nearby women's shelter for the night. Martha is familiar with the city, however, does not have a mode of transportation and does not have any money. Martha does receive social security benefits; however she is unsure how to reactivate these benefits since her release from prison.

## Instant Offense:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) received a tip that there was an organized crime operation taking place in a residential home. Neighbors were concerned with the high traffic coming in and out of this home at various hours. Neighbors reported to the FBI that things felt 'off.' Agents began investigating by observing the frequency of people coming in and out of homes. They observed license plates and investigated the trash once it was placed on the curb. In the trash, agents found various plastic baggies that appeared to have residue from illicit substances. A small scale was also found in the trash. A warrant to search this residence was executed by FBI and DEA agents. Martha, the owner of the residence, answered the door for the agents and the search warrant was presented to her. Agents found several grams of methamphetamine, several scales, plastic baggies, and other packing materials. Martha was placed under arrest.

## Pre-Trial Supervision:

Martha appeared before the Court the following day after her arrest. At her first appearance, Martha was read her charges. It was determined that Martha was not considered a danger to the community or a risk of non-appearance for her next court hearing. She was released and directed to report to pre-trial services to be supervised pending her trial. Martha was assigned a pre-trial officer and ordered to engage in mental health treatment, substance use treatment, and provide random urine analysis tests. Martha followed all conditions of her release while awaiting her trial. She connected to a mental health clinician and was prescribed mental health medications. She graduated from outpatient substance use treatment and provided all negative urine samples to the Court. Because of Martha's success on pre-trial release, several months were taken off her sentence.

## **Bureau of Prison Records:**

Martha was evaluated at a federal medical facility shortly after her incarceration due to on-going reports of hallucinations and disorientation while incarcerated. Martha had stabilized on her mental health medications during her time on pre-trial release, specifically she was given a 30- day injectable of Risperidone. Once incarcerated, she was not evaluated in time for her next injection, and she quickly began to decompensate. A psychologist in the Bureau of Prisons evaluated her, which her symptoms quickly improved. Martha was placed on a special mental health unit during her incarceration, which allowed her to engage in a mental health treatment group, have access to monthly check-ins with a mental health counselor, and maintain access to antipsychotic medication. Martha successfully completed her GED while incarcerated.

## **BOP Behavior Report:**

Incident #1: Martha refused to wake up for her medications.  
Consequence: Loss of phone privileges.

Incident #2: Matha did not maintain cleanliness in her cell.  
Consequence: Loss of phone privileges.

Incident #3: Martha was not accountable during facility count. Consequence: No special programming for 30 days.

## **Criminal History:**

Minor in Possession:

When Martha was 16 years old, she was arrested for minor in possession. Officers responded to a bonfire where several teenagers were present smoking marijuana and drinking alcohol. Martha attempted to run from police. Police were able to detain and breathalyze her. Martha was cited and released.

Assault IV:

When Martha was 21 years old, she was arrested for assault IV. Officers were called to a local gas station after a cashier called 911. Officers arrived and found Martha shoving and slapping a nearby camper. Officers arrested Martha, which she served 45 days in jail, was found guilty and placed on one year of probation.

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#### Possession of Methamphetamine:

When Martha was 24 years old, she was arrested for possession of methamphetamine. Martha was smoking methamphetamine with Johnny in a city park. Law enforcement responded to a

call from a patron concerned about the smell and two people acting 'odd.' Law enforcement responded and arrested both Martha and Johnny. Martha's probation was revoked, she served 45 days in jail and another 2 years of probation was imposed by the Court. Martha was referred to mental health court.

#### Child Endangerment:

When Martha's son was 3 years-old, Martha was driving a vehicle without her son in a car seat. Martha was pulled over by law enforcement after a fast food drive thru attendant expressed concern for the child not properly secured in the moving vehicle. Martha was cited and released and the Department of Human Services (DHS) were called.

#### Failure to Appear:

Martha was ordered to appear before the Court and did not show. A warrant was put out for her arrest. Martha was later arrested on this warrant and continued on probation.

#### Criminal Trespass:

When Martha was 26 years old, she was arrested for criminal trespass. Martha was houseless during this time. She would frequently sleep in a vacant home that was for sale in a quiet neighborhood. A neighbor noticed Martha going into this home late at night and called police. Police responded with a mobile behavioral health team. Martha was cited and released.

#### Disorderly Conduct:

When Martha was 27 years old, she was arrested for disorderly conduct. A local brewery manager called local authorities after patrons were concerned about a woman "shouting and yelling" concerns about the food and beer being poisoned. Martha was standing on the sidewalk next to an outdoor dining area shouting, "You drink that poison? That's exactly what the government wants you to do! Stop giving in to the government's wishes!" Martha was cited and released.

## Family History:

Martha is a 54 year-old Caucasian female who was born and raised in Medford, OR. She was raised by her mother, Sandra who passed away when Martha was 16 years-old.

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Martha reported having a 'wonderful' relationship with her mother and described her mother as a 'gentle soul.' Martha's father separated from her mother when Martha was an infant and 'didn't come around very often' after her first birthday. Martha's mother later married Larry, who was abusive both physically and emotionally to Sandra. Martha describes Larry as 'controlling and explosive.' Martha reported, "watching my mom fear for her life was rough. It messed me up in more ways than I realized." Martha reported that Sandra attempted to leave Larry several times, but returned back to him due to lack of financial resources. Martha believes her mother would have

been much better off without Larry in her life and feels defeated that her mother was never able to leave him. Martha was sexually assaulted by Larry on several occasions and describes these instances as traumatic and 'life-altering.' Martha reported that her mother worked nights at the hospital as a nurse, when Larry was drinking, "he would come into my room and you can imagine the rest wasn't good." Martha did not report this to her mother because she felt it would only upset her mother and she did not want her mother to feel more financially strained. When Martha was a teenager, her mother developed a rare form of cancer and later passed away when Martha was 16 years old.

Martha did not stay at home with Larry after her mother's passing and quickly dropped out of school and began working as a clerk at a grocery store. She was 'couch hopping' for several years and did not obtain a stable residence until she moved in with her boyfriend. Martha and Johnny had a son when Martha was 19 years old. Martha reported having her son was the best thing that happened to her. Johnny, Martha, and their son Linal moved to Portland, OR after Johnny found work on the shipyards on the Willamette River. Martha stayed home with Linal and promised herself she would get her GED.

Martha struggled with both substance use and a mental disorder, which ultimately led to Linal being removed from her home and placed in child protective services. Linal was able to be placed with Martha's aunt. Martha was granted visitation rights on the weekends.

## **Mental Health History:**

Martha was first diagnosed with schizophrenia at 23 years old. Martha recognized her mental health was suffering after her and Johnny struggled to maintain financial stability. Martha reported experiencing 'dark thoughts' and insomnia. Martha experienced hallucinations and feeling 'out of touch with reality.' Martha was hospitalized for auditory hallucinations and thoughts of self-harm. Martha was placed on antipsychotic medication upon release from the hospital and provided resources for behavioral health services. Martha was unable to obtain her prescription refill and quickly began to experience

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disorganized thoughts and hallucinations.

Martha became known as one of the 'frequent flyers' in the emergency department, which often resulted in her being released soon after being assessed. She struggled to stabilize on mental health medications and continued to decompensate.

Martha was intermittently on mental health medications, however she was most stable during her time on pre-trial supervision. Martha recognizes it was helpful to have someone help remind her to take her medications and remind her to refill her medications. Martha also built strong rapport with her mental health clinician. Martha was prescribed Risperidone, an anti-psychotic medication.

## **Substance Use History:**

Martha used marijuana as a teenager and denies using it frequently. Martha reported she did not like the way it made her feel because 'it made my head all swimmy.' She consumed alcohol as a teenager and began using methamphetamine around the age of 17 years old. Martha recognizes Johnny had a strong influence on her methamphetamine use. Martha reported, "he loved the stuff and I loved him." Martha denies using methamphetamine ever on a daily basis. She used more frequently as a teenager and denies using for the past several months prior to her arrest.

## **Education:**

Martha stopped attending high school after her mother's death. She is committed on completing her GED and hopes to do this if she does serve a prison sentence. Martha reported, "if I have to go to prison, it will give me lots of time to study for my GED."

## **Employment:**

Martha has held several jobs since the age of 19 years old. She has mainly worked in cashier type positions at gas stations and grocery stores. When Martha was 27 years-old, she connected with a case manager who helped her obtain and maintain employment at a local grocery store.

Martha describes this job as the best job she has ever had. "My boss was real nice and patient with me, all the customers were so kind." Martha reported her case manager leaving her position and she struggled to maintain employment without the support of her case manager.