

Adam Kilgore
August 13, 2007
Dr. Bricker
HR Violation

Friday, August 10, 2007 @ 11am

“Jackie” is a 48 year old divorced, white female with a childhood history of both sexual and physical abuse. She also has a history of substance abuse and is currently diagnosed as a manic depressant. Jackie currently survives on \$986 a month in disability payments and receives Medicaid which provides for most of her medical needs. The interview took place at her home in North Chattanooga which is located in a “good” part of town in a middle class neighborhood. Jackie received her home as a part of her divorce settlement in 1992. She also received a substantial cash settlement but due to her addiction to cocaine and marijuana her settlement was gone within one year of her divorce. She married within three months of her divorce and was no longer eligible to receive her monthly alimony payments. Her second marriage only lasted 18 months and she was alone and at the height of her addiction. She entered treatment for the second time in 1995 and has been successfully off drugs for 12 years. When questioned about why she doesn’t sell her home and move into an apartment Jackie voiced that it is all she has left of her “life” before she destroyed it.

Jackie could not voice any human rights violations when we first spoke but after I explained to her what a human rights violation was she was easily able to list several that she has endured, however she feels that she has brought all of her heartache and suffering on herself and that she has “got what she deserves”. She voiced having her electricity turned off more than once and needing to ask a friend to help pay to have her electricity

turned back on. She voiced that in order to pay her taxes that she has went with out personal hygiene products, household supplies and food. She voiced that because her two dogs were the only family that she has left that she has chose not to buy her own food on occasion so that she was able to provide for her animals.

My reflection on doing this assignment was mixed. I have known “Jackie” for 10 years and was both frustrated and saddened by her living situation. Because of her mental health issues and history of abuse she is the consummate victim. My heart aches for her pain and I have helped her on occasion over the years financially to make ends meet. I think that the most disturbing part of our conversation is that she believes that she deserves to live life the way she does. I also felt guilty because I know that when she contacts me it is because she is in need of money and I often feel that she is an obligation. I feel angry because I am helpless to truly help her.