

## Working with Suicidal Clients

### Vignette #5 Jane

Jane (18) has been meeting with Ann (a registered MFT associate) at the local community clinic for the past few months. Although Jane's mom made the initial appointment for her, Jane insists that she is attending voluntarily and she agrees that she has "tons of problems that she needs help with." Jane has a history of problems with impulsivity, depression, and possible alcohol abuse. Although she has been actively engaged in her therapy sessions, she has a habit of canceling at the last minute. When confronted about her attendance, Jane admitted that she had a problem remembering things sometimes, and she promised Ann that she would try to be on time. Jane did not complete high school, but she has a plan to work on her G.E.D. Although Jane denies any current suicidal ideation, she told Ann that she "took a bunch of Tylenol once," about a year ago, after breaking up with a boyfriend.

### Questions

1. What "risk-factors" should Ann take into consideration in her assessment of Jane?
2. What are the relevant "protective factors" in this case?
3. What "reasonable preventive measures" should Ann consider based on these facts?
4. What additional questions should Ann consider asking Jane to evaluate the risk of suicide?
5. If you were Ann's supervisor:
  - a. Are there any treatment recommendations that you would consider offering to her?
  - b. What questions would you want to ask Ann?