

Competency/Commitment – Case Six

Mark D., age 42, is married and has a 12-year-old daughter. He is unemployed. He has a long history of mental health problems and has been hospitalized on two occasions for depression. Over the past few months, Mark's depressed mood has intensified. His wife reports that he has also become very suspicious. He told her that he is being followed and that someone is bugging his telephone. He has become quite reclusive and typically spends most of his time by himself. In two recent conversations with his wife, he said that he would be "better off dead." The day before the commitment process began, Mark attempted to kill himself by carbon monoxide poisoning, leaving his car running in the garage. The MMPI-2 was administered as part of a commitment hearing initiated by his wife and family physician after the suicide attempt.