



**Confidential Defense Map for  
Penny Willis (Penn)**  
from DefenseMap.com

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**Juvenile case**

- a. **Understands the purpose of the website work and confidentiality?:** Yes.
- b. **Claim/charge against client:** Running away (about 8 times) and now arson.
- c. **Court/Locale:** Elkhart County, Indiana, USA.

**Birth/Race/Gender**

- d. **Age:** 14.
- e. **Race:** White.; Not Hispanic/Latino.
- f. **Gender:** Female.

**Contact information**

- g. **Address:** I'm at the SJC Juvenile Justice Center (JJC). My usual address is 1450 Canal Road, South Bend, Indiana.
- h. **Primary Telephone:** None now. My cell when I'm out (if I'm allowed to have a phone) is 574-532-6655.
- i. **Email:** pennywillis@adsfff3.co.
- j. **Emergency Contacts:**
  - 1. I don't want anyone contacting my parents.

**Professional(s):** Charlie Asher (Attorney); Kylea Asher, Ph.D. (Allied Professional).



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## Sections

### Part A: Legal

#### 1. Most on the client's mind ([Up to Flags Page](#))

**What's most on the client's mind:** My life is a wreck, and it's not all my doing. My parents sometimes seem like they are going to kill each other. I'm angry about what I have to live with. I'm angry at my parents because I love them, but they are doing everything to ruin their lives and mine.

I met a counselor here at detention (Mrs. Bellina), and she has told me I should be honest with you about what is going on. My parents are a total mess.

#### 2. Client's safety/Emergency needs ([Up to Flags Page](#))

a. **Client's sense of personal safety:** Extremely unsafe. I feel people are going to make me go back and live with my parents, with all their fighting, drinking, drug use, and craziness.

b. **Emergency needs?:** No.

#### 3. This case ([Up to Flags Page](#))

a. **What happened:** Well, as far as what I've done, about 8 times in the last 2 months, I've run away. Basically, by not coming home after school (or getting off the bus at school and going to different people's homes instead of into the school). I've been angry and also afraid to be at home.

My mom is hooked on diet pills she gets over the counter and from at least 3 different doctors. My dad drinks almost a case of beer every night. They fight all the time, usually with my dad calling my mom things like "a fat pig" and my mom yelling at my dad for drinking all the time and having girlfriends.

They have hit each other many times, usually started by my mom but then my dad hurting her by squeezing her hands and arms while he yells at her. There's nothing on professional wrestling as bad as my parents. I was humiliated many times when people saw even a tiny part of this. But one time about 2 months ago when a friend saw some of this (my parents wouldn't stop even in front of her, and she's the mayor's daughter).

When it was over, my friend said something that made me feel terrible, but it also said a lot about this: "What a shitshow."

Then last week when my parents found out the house I was staying at and said they were coming for me, "AND LOOK OUT!" (their words), I sort of flipped. I was hiding at some friends' rented house. I went into the garage, I think because I didn't know how close my parents were, and I wanted to hide. I saw a large red can of gas (maybe a 5-gallon can that was almost full). I tipped it over, ran to the door, and threw a match in as I ran out.

My friends saw me do this, and I think they called the fire department. Anyway, the police found me where I'd run to (a 7-11 store about 6 blocks away).

So here I am, the problem.

b. **How fair the client considers the claims/charges:** Completely fair. I did all this. My complaint isn't really with the charge. It's with my family.

c. **What the client thinks caused this:** Anger. Desperation. Being afraid for my family but living with the messages "Nobody tells on the family"; "Our family solves its own problems"; "All families solve their own problems."

d. **Talked to police or anyone else about this?:** Yes. I told my parents to fuck off. I told the police I was the one who did it and that I did it alone (which is the truth).

e. **Done this before?:** No.

f. **Likely to do this again?:** Yes. I don't think I'll set a fire or do anything like that again. But I'm done obeying rules at home. I'd rather stay here. I might skip school, run away, do whatever to not go along with my parents' program anymore.

g. **Feels how bad about anything he/she did in this case:** Pretty bad. I don't know. I'm not sure what I

was supposed to do.

- h. **Client's thoughts on what should happen in this case:** I don't know. I do know that if my parents weren't such a mess, I wouldn't be doing any of these things. I've been an A- student, a church member, and someone who's wanted to do well. I doubt anybody in our church or neighborhood could believe what's happened to me.
- i. **Anything else the client wants counsel to know about the case?:** Yes. I'd like someone to shine the light on my parents and make them get help. A divorce, counseling, drug and alcohol treatment, whatever. Maybe all of that. But so far, all I'm hearing is what I've done wrong.

4. **Past arrests, cases, or legal troubles** ([Up to Flags Page](#))

- a. **Any prior arrests or charges?:** No.
- b. **Other legal problems?:** No.
- c. **Wants counsel to know about anything else that could have led to legal troubles?:** No.

**Part B: Basic Profile**

5. **Client's life overall** ([Up to Flags Page](#))

- a. **Proud of:** Well, after talking to the counselor here (Mrs. Bellina), I sort of feel like telling my parents to go screw themselves and doing all this shit I'm charged with--THAT'S something to be proud of. At least it's put a light on my sick family.

I used to be proud of my grades and activities, but not now. My parents got a lot of pride out of what I did, and I'd rather they were ashamed of everything in their lives, me included.

- b. **Ways client has helped others:** I used to help a lot of people through my church. Also friends.
- c. **Hardest or scariest parts of client's life:** What I've just written about. Mostly, having my parents as my parents.
- d. **Feels helped most by:** Here in detention, I like Mrs. Bellina. She doesn't judge me without trying to get to know me and my situation.
- e. **Feels hurt/torn down most by:** Duh. My parents.
- f. **Client's worries:** That I'll have to go back home.
- g. **Most wishes had not happened:** The shitshow between my parents.
- h. **Things client most wishes were different today:** I don't know. It's all such a mess. I wish I had a different family. I wish my parents would either get help and clean up their act or just kill each other.
- i. **Other important or interesting things about client:** Jesus, I don't know. That I'd rather be dead than go home?

6. **Home and family life** ([Up to Flags Page](#))

- a. **Lives with:** My parents. I hate them both. Well, I love them, but I really have come to hate them. I don't respect or trust them, and I don't want them in my life.
- b. **Relationship with mother:** Poor (0 out of 3). As a mother, she's an addicted piece of garbage. She can't be a mom, and she should stop pretending.
- c. **Relationship with father:** Poor (0 out of 3). He's a drunk, an adulterer, and a really crappy dad.
- d. **Ever lived with (or raised by) an adult other than a parent?:** Yes. I didn't live with her, but my Aunt Barb and Uncle Dennis are wonderful people. I wish they would do more to help. I think they would let me live with them, especially if they knew things are 50 times worse than they know.
- e. **Methods of discipline/punishment:**
  - 1. Having a calm talk with me about how I could do better.
  - 2. Yelling at me.
  - 3. Calling me names.
  - 4. Doing something else. The real punishment is just that I have to be their daughter.
- f. **History of neglect or abuse cases in home?:** No.

- g. **Anyone else think there was a problem in how the client has been treated or raised?:** Yes. I think there's something wrong with asking a kid to live in a shitshow.
  - h. **If it were client's choice, preference on who to live with:** My Aunt Barb and Uncle Dennis. They care about their kids and all kids. They don't think what I'm living with is normal.
  - i. **Ever lived away from family?:** Yes. The running away I've told you about. And now I'm in detention.
  - j. **Any family member ever lived away?:** No.
  - k. **History of legal troubles for any members of the family?:** No.
  - l. **Other things client wants attorney to know about home life?:** Yes. You wouldn't put up with it for 5 minutes.
7. **Other important relationships** ([Up to Flags Page](#))
- a. **Other important people in client's life:** My friends look like losers (potheads, dropouts, wanting sex for my staying with them, etc.), but they've helped me.
8. **Good things in the client's life** ([Up to Flags Page](#))
- a. **Regarding 12 possible important childhood assets, the client reported the following:**  
**Consistently present:** None.  
**Somewhat present:**
    1. Other loving and encouraging family. Aunt Barb and Uncle Dennis, but I,m not allowed to see them much because my parents are embarrassed about their own shit.
    2. A financially secure home life—we have had enough money to meet our needs.
    3. A safe neighborhood.
    4. Good friends.**Missing:**
    1. A loving and encouraging mother.
    2. A loving and encouraging father.
    3. A family that makes me feel loved.
    4. Parents who have stayed happily together. They've stayed together, but they shouldn't have. except they deserve each other.
    5. Parents who treat each other well. Jesus. Are you kidding?
    6. Peace within my family. Peace is the last thing my family has.
    7. A home life that always feels safe.
    8. A family that other kids would be happy to have.
  - b. **Other assets in client's life?:** No.
9. **Challenges in the client's childhood** ([Up to Flags Page](#))
- a. **Family structure:**
    1. A time I lived with someone other than my parents.
    2. Unsafe or unhealthy people brought into my life. I guess the people I've gone to live with aren't COMPLETELY healthy (pot, no school, no jobs, wanting oral sex and masturbation, etc.). But being with them has been a good thing in many ways.
  - b. **Sexual abuse (including any sexual touching or contact):** None.
  - c. **Attacked or physically hurt:** None.
  - d. **Emotional or verbal mistreatment or abuse:**
    1. Yelled at often. Told LOUDLY the family will solve its own problems and we DON'T TELL!
    2. Other emotional abuse. I think having to watch the shitshow isn't exactly fun.
  - e. **Disability, serious illness, or injury:** None.
  - f. **Family members' functioning:**
    1. Alcohol abuse by my father. Crazy drinker.

2. Drug abuse by my mother. Crazy on diet pills.
3. A family member with mental problems. I think both my parents are nuts.
4. A family member with trouble controlling his/her anger. There is NO CONTROL on the part of either one of them.
5. A family member with another problem. I don't even know how to describe the problems my parents have—except as I've already written.

**g. Feeling responsible for something bad that happened:**

1. Feeling that a bad or scary thing was my fault. I've always felt I was supposed to fix the problems between my parents. I used to imagine I'd ask them to create a kind of "Family Court" where everything would be talked out. But I never had the courage to bring it up. Which I feel weak and stupid about.
2. Feeling that there was something bad or scary I was supposed to have fixed or stopped. All of this shit. I always felt I was supposed to fix this or stop it.

**h. Other issues:**

1. Often feeling lonely.
2. Often feeling different from other kids.
3. Often feeling I didn't fit in.
4. Involvement with a gang. It's sort of a gang I've run away to.
5. I've done really dangerous things that could have ended with my being seriously hurt or killed. I guess unprotected sex is dangerous. That's what some of the guys wanted, and I SORT OF did, I guess. At least I went along with it.

**10. School/education** ([Up to Flags Page](#))

- a. **In school now?:** No.  
**Most recent school:** Thomas Jefferson High School. I skipped so much, I may have been kicked out. I don't know and don't much care. But I'm in detention now, and no classes have started for me.
- b. **Likes school?:** Some (2 out of 3). I used to be good at school and with my grades. And I used to have good friends. When I gave a shit.
- c. **School attendance:** Poor (0 out of 3). Skipped a lot to get away from everything.
- d. **Any serious trouble in school?:** No.
- e. **Success in school:** Some success (2 out of 3). Until a few months ago, people would say I was a model student. Straight As, clubs, etc.
- f. **Grade average over the last 12 months:** A.
- g. **Sports, clubs, extracurriculars:** Pom.
- h. **Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or remedial classes?:** No.
- i. **Diagnosed with learning disability?:** No.

**11. Jobs/work** ([Up to Flags Page](#))

- a. **Current employment?:** No.
- b. **Past employment?:** No.
- c. **Regular chores/duties at home:** I think it's my duty to watch and listen to my parents as they try to destroy and kill each other.

Notes:

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## Part C: Specific Issues

### 13. Drug use ([Up to Flags Page](#))

The client denies any illegal drug use.

- b. **Tried any illegal drugs?:** No.
- c. **Number of times:**
- d. **Endorsed drug responses:** None.
- e. **Other information about drug use?:**

### 14. Health ([Up to Flags Page](#))

- a. **Health overall:** Good (2 out of 2).
- b. **Specific health problems?:** No.
- c. **History of head injury?:** No.
- d. **History of losing consciousness?:** No.
- e. **Major surgeries?:** No.
- f. **Hospitalized?:** No.
- g. **Currently on medications?:** No.
- h. **Any other important health information?:** No.

### 15. PTSD/Repeating bad memories or nightmares ([Up to Flags Page](#))

- a. **Bothered by bad memories/nightmares of traumatic events?:** Yes.
- b. **Number of traumatic events still causing symptoms:** Over 10.
- c. **Events:** All the times my parents were trying to kill each other. The worst was the time my dad was on top of my mom choking her, and I couldn't get him off.
- d. **Symptoms in the last 12 months:**
  - 1. Unwanted memories of the events.
  - 2. Flashbacks/reliving the events as if happening again.
  - 3. Nightmares about the events.
  - 4. Waking up thinking about the events.
  - 5. Trying not to think or talk about the events.
  - 6. Trying not to be around people, places, or things that remind me of the events.
  - 7. Feeling depressed/losing the ability to feel joy.
  - 8. Lack of interest in things that I used to enjoy.
  - 9. Feeling hopeless about the future.
  - 10. Feeling angry a lot.
  - 11. Problems with angry outbursts or aggressive behavior.
  - 12. Almost always being on guard for danger.
  - 13. Being easily startled or frightened.
  - 14. A lot of guilt or shame.
  - 15. Trouble concentrating.
  - 16. Trouble sleeping.
- e. **Other PTSD information?:** Yes. Just see what I've written.

Notes:

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**16. Mood and functioning issues** ([Up to Flags Page](#))

- I. **Past suicide attempts:** No.
- II. **The client's responses don't include indications of the following in the last 12 months:**
  - a. **Thoughts of hurting others** (0 out of 5).
- III. **Significant responses were given for the following possible mood and functioning issues in the last 12 months:**
  - a. **Thoughts of hurting myself** (3 out of 9):
    1. I've thought about suicide.
    2. I've had wishes not to be alive.
    3. I've had thoughts of how to commit suicide.

**Client's reflections on these 3 responses:** I just hate my life. But maybe not as much now. I just want a different life.
  - b. **Depression** (3 out of 3):
    1. A lot more sadness than other people seem to have.
    2. Loss of interest in things that used to interest me.
    3. Feeling sad a lot.

**Client's reflections on these 3 responses:** Same as what I've said.
  - c. **Anxiety, worry, and nervousness** (4 out of 4):
    1. Worrying a lot.
    2. Often worrying about the same one or two things.
    3. Trouble controlling my worrying.
    4. Often feeling anxious, nervous, or uneasy.

**Client's reflections on these 4 responses:** The same.
  - d. **More anger than most people seem to have** (5 out of 5):
    1. Being angry a lot.
    2. Getting angry at things that don't seem to bother most people.
    3. Losing my temper without a good reason or explanation.
    4. Struggling not to lose my temper.
    5. Trouble controlling my anger, even when it causes problems.

**Client's reflections on these 5 responses:** I think my anger has become my friend. I used to have none. Now a ton.

And I really don't feel bad about this "new me."
  - e. **Other mood or emotional difficulties:** None.

**17. Counseling** ([Up to Flags Page](#))

- a. **In counseling currently?:** Yes.
  - i. **Reason/purpose:** I see Mrs. Bellina. She sees all the new kids here.
  - ii. **Counselor/therapist:** Mrs. Bellina.
  - iii. **Started approximately:** When I got here, 5 days ago.
  - iv. **Number of appointments so far:** 3.
  - v. **Client's assessment of how the counseling/therapy is going:** Very well (3 out of 3). I hope I get to see her a lot.
- b. **On medication now?:** No.
- c. **Using medications currently for mental or emotional issues?:** No.
- d. **Prior counseling/therapy?:** No.

