

Dear Ms. Herbert,

Summer came into the office for a supervised visit with her mother last week. I could tell she was upset right from the start, but then I noticed she had scratches all along the inside of her arm. I asked Summer to stay behind after she met with her mother and she confided in me that the scratches were self-inflicted.

To the best of my knowledge, Summer stopped cutting herself shortly after she was placed in your home. This is the first visit she has had with her mother in over a year and she admitted that she did not feel ready to see her. Summer gave me a broach that she had in her purse and said that she had used it to cut her arm on the bus ride over to my office. I have met Summer on many occasions, even before I became her social worker, and she has never admitted to cutting or voluntarily handed over the instrument she used to do so. I see her honesty as progress, but obviously seeing her mother has brought up some feelings that Summer is having a hard time processing. We will need to be extra vigilant to make sure she does not spiral backward in her treatment. Summer asked that she not be made to see her mother and for the time being, I think this request should be respected.

After speaking to Summer, I spoke with my supervisor. My supervisor is very concerned about Summer because she will be turning 18 and exiting care very shortly. We are both concerned about her being out on her own when she still has the compulsions to hurt herself. We will need to set up supports immediately so that she can continue to have supervision. Summer will need a mental health assessment right away and perhaps we can make some applications so that she may receive disability for a short period of time after leaving care. Please contact me right away to make the arrangements.

Lexis H. Murphy
Social Worker