

I realize that many of you do not have mental health background or received any training to do the psychological assessments but this is an activity to help you realize how important to have the right skills to provide the assessment service for deaf client/student:

Sarah, Deaf girl who is 8 years old, is in the session with you and she is very upset and screaming at you. You were able to understand from her parents that she is a very smart girl who enjoys the activities that involves reading books and dance. Her parents are concerned because she has been hitting her younger brother physically, 4 years old, for few weeks and refuses to follow instructions from her parents.

You observed that during the session that she is signing wildly and distracting visually to you. Her face is full of rage and anger. She would stand up and sit down once in a while but when she stands up, she would scream and calm down only when she sits especially when you told her to sit on a chair. You are not fluent in sign language but you were asked to assess her and to give your 'expert opinion' on why she is an angry child. The only thing you understood is that Sarah reports that she feels her parents are mean and that they would punish her for silly reasons. Eventually, when you were able to obtain the sign language interpreter who admitted after meeting Sarah that he cannot understand her well but will "try his best" to interpret to his best ability. Sarah became even angrier when the interpreter asked her to repeat several times to provide the answers to your questions. Sarah then tells you that she thinks you are stupid through the interpreter. Finally, she gives you "dirty gestures" that you understood were malicious and vulgar.

What would you think are her "problems"? What contributes to her anger? What are the issues that you can think of that are affecting her? Do you have any ideas on how to recommend on how to provide interventions for her?