

Case No. 9

A Father Troubled with his Daughter's Unbearable Violence

No Place to Ask for Help

Mr. Takeshita says “I don’t know what could have happened if I didn’t come here for help.” The 67-year-old Hiroshima resident decided to visit Kakekomidera, about 400 miles away from his home, when he couldn’t bear his daughter’s violence against other family members any more. He recalls that he might have killed his daughter and himself in order to put an end to the nightmare.

The Resentful Daughter

Mr. Takeshita’s daughter got divorced four years ago, and came back to her parents’ home with a two-year-old boy. Soon after, she introduced a man to her parents and said that she wanted to marry him. Her parents were strongly opposed to this marriage, thinking that it was too early to remarry. Eventually, the daughter broke up with the man.

Several months later, it became clear that she was pregnant. This time, her parents reluctantly consented to her remarriage. However, things didn’t work out as desired, and she gave birth to a baby boy alone.

She resented her parents for having kept her from getting married, and having separated her from the man. Then, her violence started.

One day, she damaged the floor with a kitchen knife, screaming “I will kill you!” On the other day, when her parents were eating at the table, she poured mayo over their heads and scattered ketchup over the kitchen floor.

She never resorted to violence against her mother, but against her father, she showed no hesitation. She kicked and shoved him off, yelling “Get lost. You are in my way”. Mr. and Mrs. Takeshita felt more dead than alive for the fear of their own daughter.

The evidence of the Scene

Mr. Takeshita brought some pictures with him. The pictures were of damaged floor and walls of his house.

As for the daughter, she got a lawyer to defend herself. Her claims were: 1) her parents were responsible for everything, 2) she deliberately acted rough, so that they might listen to her, 3) her parents should take care of her since they ruined her life, but they were trying to get rid of her, 4) her parents almost sent her to an asylum, which was inhumane when she had to take care of her little baby.

Gen (Hidemori) talked to the lawyer and showed the pictures Mr. Takeshita had taken. It was obvious that the lawyer knew nothing of her violence against her parents, and seemed quite shocked.

Once the lawyer realized what the real problem was, he persuaded the daughter to stop harming others and start working. Later, the daughter submitted a written oath, clearly stating that she would never resort to violence and find a job.

The lawyer was very supportive, and listened to the daughter talked about her worries and fears for the future. This helped her feel relieved and calm.

The fact that a tough-looking guy (Gen) who came out of blue helped her father and persuaded her lawyer to change the plan, made her realize it was the time for a change. She, too, was struggling to find a way out.

Tips from Gen

Some people blame their parents and bad upbringing for their misfortunes. While parents, at the sight of violence and other mischievous behavior, regret not having brought them up well and apt to spoil the children. Upbringing does play big part, however, it is much better to spend time thinking about the future than regretting the past.

Especially in the case above, the daughter is a grownup person and should be treated as so. There is no reason to blame her parents for the failed marriage. Unless she realizes this, she won't be able to move on to the next step in her life. I believe by overcoming the problem, she now can think about a future plan.

In order to solve this kind of case effectively, I advise that you take pictures or videotape the scene as a proof of violence.