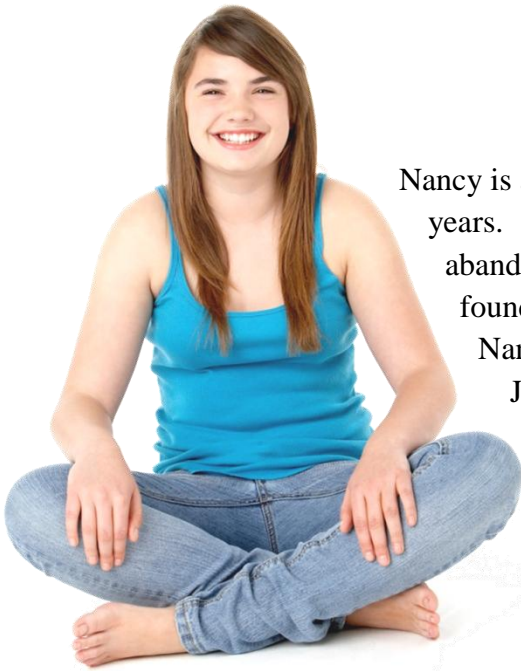


## Case Study #4



Nancy is a 14-year-old girl who has been in foster care placement for three years. She came into placement without much information. She was abandoned by her parents, and was taken into placement when authorities found that she was living in a vacant house.

Nancy was placed with the Jones Resource Family. Mr. and Mrs. Jones are experienced parents having raised three biological children to adulthood. They decided to foster after their home became too quiet for them when their last child moved out. The first three years of Nancy's placement were uneventful. She did well in the home, and had no problems socially or educationally. The family bonded well, and the parents were quite happy with their decision to foster.

Without warning, or apparent reason, Nancy began to act out. She totally stopped talking to Mr. Jones and would leave the room whenever he entered. She then started talking back and seemed very angry. She rarely smiled, and refused to open up about what was wrong. Then her relationship with Mrs. Jones changed. She started being oppositional, using foul language, and became openly defiant. Mrs. Jones was very confused by the behavior. Home life became difficult and unhappy.

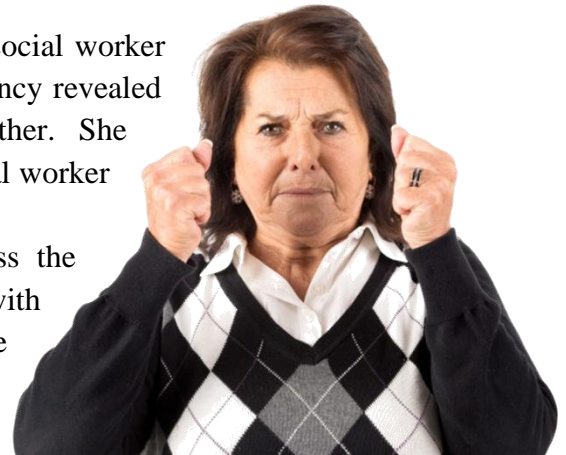
One day Mrs. Jones got a call from school that Nancy was failing most of her classes and regularly missing school. It was also reported that Nancy was hanging around the wrong crowd at school.

In desperation, Mrs. Jones called their social worker. The social worker spent some time talking with Nancy. For the first time, Nancy revealed that she had been sexually abused at a young age by her father. She disclosed difficult memories and gave permission to the social worker to share them with Mrs. Jones.

The social worker, Mrs. Jones, and Nancy met to discuss the information that Nancy shared. Mrs. Jones was so unhappy with

Nancy's sudden change in behavior that she assumed that Nancy made the story up to avoid any consequences for her behaviors. She looked at Nancy and called her a liar.

What went wrong? Why did Mrs. Jones behave the way she did? What would you have done differently if you were in Mrs. Jones position? Why was Nancy acting the way she did?



- NOTE - Participants should use the training they received with Positive Parenting and Trauma Sensitive Parenting to guide their responses.