

Risky Scenario # 1 - The Concert

The Story

- The AFS student, Yoshi, has been in the U.S. for a few weeks.
- The host brother, Jon, invites the Yoshi to a go to local concert with Jon and Jon's friends.
- The host father drives Yoshi and Jon to the local concert.
- Jon's friends arrive late and are acting strangely.
- Yoshi thinks that they have been using drugs or alcohol but says nothing.
- After the local concert ends, Yoshi and Jon get into Jon's friend's car
- Jon's friends start smoking marijuana.

Dialogue

- Jon's friend: Do you want to smoke?
- Yoshi: Oh, no thanks.
- Jon's friend: Oh, come on. One puff won't hurt.
- Yoshi: Thanks anyway. I can get sent home for using drugs. I really want to complete my year in the U.S. without getting into trouble or getting sent back
- Jon's friend: OK, but who is going to tell on you, your host brother?

Questions

1. What were the warning signs that this could be a risky situation?
 - ***Jon's friends arrive to the concert late and are acting strangely.***
2. In what ways were the student's safety, health and/or ability to remain on program at risk?
 - ***Yoshi is in a car being driven by someone who is under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.***
 - ***Yoshi could be sent home for spending time with people who use drugs.***
 - ***If caught using drugs or in the presence of people who do, Yoshi could be arrested and subject to local laws.***
 - ***AFS has no control or influence in this situation and Yoshi's natural parents would have to obtain legal representation for him.***
3. What, if anything, could Yoshi have done to reduce the level of risk in this situation?
 - ***Said something to the host brother about his concern that the friends were using drugs/alcohol and explained why Yoshi can't hang around with people who use drugs.***
 - ***Called the liaison, another AFS Volunteer, or the host parents and asked them to come and pick the Yoshi up from the concert.***
 - ***If available and safe, called a cab/taxi or taken public transportation back home.***
4. Should Yoshi tell his Liaison what happened?
 - ***Yes!***
 - ***Even though Yoshi didn't see the host brother using drugs, the liaison or other AFS Volunteer should be made aware of the situation.***

Risky Scenario #2

The Story

- Priya has been in the U.S. for one month.
- One night, Priya goes to a party with her host sister and sees Tom, a boy from her English class.
- Priya thinks Tom is good-looking and is interested in him romantically.
- Priya and Tom start talking about school.
- Soon, Tom asks Priya to come outside and talk where it's quieter.
- They are alone outside and Tom suddenly kisses Priya.

The Dialogue

- Priya: You are moving a little too fast for me.
- Tom: Oh, I'm sorry! (keeps kissing the student)
- Priya: Um, I really like you, but I am not comfortable doing this.
- Tom: Oh, come on. If you really like me, then what is the problem? We do this kind of thing all the time here and it is no big deal.
- Priya: Well, it is a big deal for me! (The student goes back inside the house.)

Questions

1. What were the warning signs that this may be a risky situation?
 - **Priya doesn't know Tom very well and Tom has asked the student to go outside with him.**
 - **Tom tries to pressure Priya to do something she doesn't want to do and makes her feel uncomfortable.**
2. In what ways were the student's safety, health, and/or ability to remain on program at risk?
 - **Priya is alone and vulnerable to sexual assault/abuse.**
 - **Pregnancy or serious mental health issues resulting from this experience could lead to program termination.**
3. What, if anything, could Priya have done to reduce the level of risk in this situation?
 - **Not gone outside with Tom in the first place.**
 - **Walked back to the house as soon as she became uncomfortable.**
4. What else could Priya have said to refuse Tom?
 - **Stop it now!**
 - **I have to go. My host sister is waiting for me.**
5. If Tom had continued to harass Priya, what should she do?
 - **Yelled for help.**
 - **Physically fought him off.**
6. If Priya had actually been sexually assaulted/abused by Tom, what should they do?
 - **Tell a trusted adult, such as a host parent or the liaison as soon as possible.**
 - **If the first option is not possible, contact the AFS-USA Duty Officer (1-800-237-4636, option 9).**
 - **For additional information and guidance on safety and sexual misconduct, please save and review the "Safety & Sexual Misconduct" pamphlet that you have been given. You can always talk with your Liaison if you ever need any support, help or advice.**

Risky Scenario #3

The Story

- Mohammad and Tan are two AFS students.
- They both received permission from their host parents to attend the Homecoming Dance.
- They arranged for a ride with some classmates.
- After their friends pick them up, they drive toward the high school.

The Dialogue

- Classmate: Hey you guys, I heard about a party happening down at the river tonight. Do you want to skip the dance and go to the party instead?
- Mohammad: Yes! I didn't want to go to that dance anyway. Everyone is so excited about it. But, I don't understand why the dance is so important.
- Tan: I don't know if we should go to the party. We told our host parents that we were going to the school dance.
- Classmate: Well, we can go to the dance for like 10 minutes and then go to the party!
- Tan: But I was really looking forward to the dance. I really want to experience an American high school dance.
- Mohammad: Come on Tan, we can have a cool American experience at the party by the river! I am sure there will be music there!

Questions

1. What are the warning signs that this might be a risky situation?
 - **The U.S. classmates are encouraging AFS students to lie to their host parents.**
 - **The students know this is something that they shouldn't do.**
 - **U.S. High school parties at people's home/in non-school setting will likely involve alcohol and/or drugs.**
2. In what ways were the students' safety, health and/or ability to remain on program at risk?
 - **Alcohol/drugs, darkness and large bodies of water (i.e. the river) is a very dangerous combination.**
 - **Their host parents would not know where to look for them if they didn't come home.**
 - **They are breaking the trust their family has put in them, and that is a serious issue with American families.**
 - **If the host parents don't feel that students are open, honest, and trustworthy, then the families and AFS will not feel that they can assume the responsibility for the student's well-being.**
 - **So, the student is in danger of being moved to a new family or sent home early.**
3. How could Tan handle this situation if the others insist on going to the party by the river?
 - **Ask them to drop him off at the high school dance and then call his host parents to let them know he will now need a ride home.**
4. Should Tan tell a trusted adult, such as a host parent or liaison, about what happened?
 - **Yes!**
 - **Tan should tell his host parents what happened.**

Risky Scenarios #4

The Story

- Antonio has been in the U.S. for a couple of months.
- Math is his favorite subject at school because he can understand it and gets good grades.
- Also, the math teacher speaks Spanish, Antonio's native language, well and likes to practice speaking with him.
- Math is the last class of the day, so Antonio sometimes chats with the math teacher after class.
- One Friday, Antonio and the teacher are alone together in the classroom.

The Dialogue

- Math teacher: So, have you made a lot friends yet?
- Antonio: No, not yet. People here are friendly but also very busy with studying for the SATs.
- Math teacher: I've noticed that you are more mature than the average 17-year-old. What do you do for fun?
- Antonio: I am usually a bit bored because I don't know many people and there is no public transportation around here.
- Math teacher: In that case, what are you doing on Saturday?
- Antonio: My host parents won't be home, so not much.
- Math teacher: Would you like to meet me at McDonalds on Saturday for lunch? Then we can take a ride around town on my motorcycle. Don't worry, I have an extra helmet!

Questions

1. What were the warning signs that this might be a risky situation?
 - **The math teacher is acting friendlier than usual toward Antonio in a way that is not the norm for U.S. culture.**
 - **In the U.S., it is not common for teachers to meet students alone outside of school activities because it can be seen as inappropriate.**
 - **Here in the U.S., if an adult wants to spend time alone with a young person, they should meet and ask the young person's parents for permission first.**
2. In what ways were the student's safety, health, and/or ability to remain on program at risk?
 - **Antonio is probably safe right now because he is in a public place and there are other teachers and students nearby.**
 - **Meeting the teacher outside of school activities could make him vulnerable to sexual misconduct (i.e. sexual assault/abuse/harassment).**
 - **In order to ride a motorcycle or scooter, AFS students must first request and then obtain an AFS waiver signed by their natural parents and sent to their AFS-USA Office.**
3. How could Antonio have responded to the invitation?
 - **No, thank you. See you later.**
 - **I will have to ask my host parents first. I'll have them call you.**
4. Should Antonio tell a trusted adult, such as a host parent or liaison, about the conversation with the math teacher and his invitation? **Yes!**
5. In the future, should Antonio hang out after class to speak with the math teacher?
 - **If Antonio discussed the instance with his host family or liaison and they said it's okay, then it is probably okay.**
6. What should Antonio do if the math teacher's behavior towards him makes him unsafe in any way?
 - **Tell a trusted adult immediately!**
 - **If the first option is not possible, contact the AFS-USA Duty Officer (1-800-237-4636, option 9).**