

Scenario One

DAVID: Did you just come back from your second meeting with your client?

BRENDA: Yeah, I came back from my second meeting with the client, but unfortunately no client showed up.

DAVID: What happened?

BRENDA: You know what David? I just don't know. I mean, basically what happened was that the client didn't show up. She didn't call; there was no e-mail; I'd given her my cell phone number. And, she just didn't show up. And, I mean, this is part of a pattern. I think that if we charged these people something then what might happen is they might take more seriously their obligations and they might show up. As long as we're doing this for free then they think they can show up or not show up as they want to.

Scenario Two

DAVID: So, tell me about this new family law case that you had your initial interview on.

BRENDA: Oh, I love Ms. Allen. I mean, she's great. Unfortunately, though, her husband hasn't been paying child support. We had a really productive meeting. She told me that she's been trying to get him to pay child support for awhile during the pendency of the divorce. And, she asked for my advice and what I suggested that she should do is that she should stop visitation. If she stopped the visitation with the kid, then more likely than not, he'd pay child support.

DAVID: What made you decide to tell her that?

BRENDA: Well, because I thought it would be an effective strategy. I think, if he stopped being able to see the kid, then he would think a lot more seriously, maybe he'd pay some support in order to get a chance to see the kid. And, the other thing is, frankly, I think that support and visitation need to be tied together. I don't think that men should be able to see their kids unless they're paying child support and they're up on it.

Scenario Three

DAVID: I noticed you weren't in class today. Is something happening, going on?

BRENDA: You know what David? I just couldn't handle class today. I mean, I had a meeting with Ms. Allen and . . .

DAVID: She's the one who sought our help with regard to a domestic violence situation?

BRENDA: Right, right. And I've been doing a lot of work with her around the civil protection order. And, it just brought back so many memories of my own experience while I was in college and then also my experience as a kid, just the running here and there, trying to get an order. Sometimes Mr. Allen acts right and Ms. Allen says she wants to go back with him. It just brought back all of the stuff with my mother and my father and just going back and forth - sometimes they're on, sometimes they're not. And, I just thought about it and I really didn't sleep very well last night and so I just couldn't get up this morning for class.