

LISA WATKINS (PARTY A) INSTRUCTIONS

Role Play:	Just the Two of Us	
Party A:	Lisa Watkins	(36 yo)
Party B:	Amy Watkins	(16 yo)
Process:	Preparation to Closing	

Background

Lisa and Amy Watkins are mother and daughter. Lisa recently remarried and Amy lives with them. Amy is finding it difficult readjusting to life with a stepdad. Amy's dad died when she was very young, and she and her mum had lived on their own until Lisa remarried. Amy is happy for her mum and has tried to get along with her step-dad, Rob, but doesn't seem able to. She decided it would be easier if she lived away from them and is now living at a friend's place.

Lisa and Amy have decided to come to mediation to see if they can resolve this issue.

Common Understandings

- Lisa's first husband, who is Amy's father, died when Amy was five years old.
- Lisa has raised Amy on her own.
- Lisa remarried six months ago. Since Lisa's new husband, Rob, moved in the relationship between him and Amy has deteriorated.
- Amy and Lisa's relationship has become strained.
- Amy is now staying with her friend, Jessica, and her family.
- Amy's school has suggested trying mediation.

Script for Lisa – Opening Statement

My first husband died when Amy was only five. I have raised Amy on my own since then.

Amy and I used to talk a lot and have always been very close. She used to be able to tell me anything. We never fought, which is really unusual for teenage girls.

Until there were problems between my new husband Rob and Amy.

I tried talking to Amy when I first realised she wasn't too happy about me going out with Rob. She said she was happy for me and kept saying she liked Rob.

I thought she just might need some time to get used to Rob being in our lives. I thought Amy was getting along alright with him, but I noticed she didn't make much of an effort to talk to him once we became engaged.

We have tried to do things as a family, but Amy always seems to have something else to do. Rob has also asked Amy to do things with him like go to the movies, shopping, even asked what her favourite foods are so that he remembers to include them in the groceries.

Amy's behaviour towards me and Rob has been getting more distant. At times Amy has been rude to Rob, I don't just hear this from him, I've heard it for myself.

Over the last few weeks we have argued more. We've never argued like that before. Last week she moved to her friend, Jessica's, home.

Amy needs to realise that Rob is part of our lives and needs to find a way to get along with him.

Lisa's Narrative

Exploration

- Amy needs to give things more time – it's been a big change for everyone – not just her. She's never told you there's a problem and suddenly she's moved out.
- Ask Amy if her new best friend, Jessica, talked her into moving out. You don't like Jessica – she's a bad influence on Amy.
- You want Amy to move back home, she's too young to live on her own and her school grades will suffer – or worse, she'll drop out.
- You want Amy to help around the house more, she can't leave everything up to you and Rob. She doesn't help with meals, laundry, cleaning the house...I think Amy thinks since Rob moved in, she doesn't need to pull her weight anymore.
- *Be appropriately responsive to the things Amy brings up in Exploration.*

Option Generation

- Amy moves back home and stops speaking with Jessica.
- Amy is given her own space in the house.

Private Session

- Get emotional again – you didn't realise how hard things have been for Amy
- You feel it's time you had a break – it's been lonely without a partner, and you don't want to spend the rest of your life on your own. Rob has mentioned that if things don't improve, he will move out for a while until Amy settles down.
- Tell the mediators you feel caught in the middle between the two people you love the most.
- Schools have programs for teenagers whose parents have divorced or are living in blended families. Maybe Amy needs to go to one of those programs.

Negotiation

- *Bring up things which might have been discussed with the mediator in private session.*
- Reluctantly agree to talk to Rob about discipline – but make it clear to Amy she needs to change a bit too. It isn't okay for her to leave clothing and other things lying around the house – she has to learn to accommodate Rob a bit too.
- At first suggest Amy goes to one of the school classes for students living in blended families. If she resists then suggest you both go to a support class together, or counselling, anything is better than the current situation.
- Amy needs to be open to spending time together as a family.

Outcome Statement

- *Have the things you agreed on in negotiation included in the outcome statement?*

