

## AMY WATKINS (PARTY B) 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

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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

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- 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 Amy – Opening Statement

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*When the mediator asks for your side of the situation, be hesitant like a teenager. Say things like 'mum and I don't get along, there's nothing more to tell'.*

*When the mediator has prompted you with a couple of questions, then proceed with the rest of the script below:*

It is not like how Mum says it is!

Rob isn't my dad and he can't order me around. He's always saying I should clean up after myself or help with dinner or the housework. He thinks that all teenagers are lazy and lie around doing nothing.

I'm not like that. I've always helped Mum around the house – I've seen how tired she gets when she comes home from work some days. So, I would try and cook dinner, I'm not very good but I knew mum always appreciated it as she wasn't a very good cook either - we used to laugh about who made the worst meal that week.

Rob is so controlling! No wonder his kids left home as soon as they could! I don't blame them. He's driving me up the wall.

*[talk directly to your mum]* He's always on my back. And you don't stop him.

He pretends to get along with me when Mum's around. But as soon as she leaves the room, he either ignores me or starts criticising me. "Have you done your homework? Are the dishes cleared away? You can't take friends into your room if it's messy."

I feel like I can't use my own house anymore, when I get home I just go to my room because I don't feel comfortable even watching tv in lounge room.

It was fine before he moved in, but since he's moved in its like he owns the place and everything that happens in it.

I couldn't keep going on like that, and I knew mum wasn't going to do anything. So, I called my best friend Jessica and asked if I could stay with her for a while; she has been really supportive. Her parents are divorced, and she knows what I am going through.

## Amy's Narrative

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### *Exploration*

- You find it too hard to study at home – he's always playing music or has the TV on loud. When you asked him to turn it down last week, Rob said you were just trying to pick a fight. You weren't rude – you tried an "I" statement which you learnt about at school. That's when Rob yelled at you. You called your friend Jessica and her mum picked you up.
- You have tried talking to your mum, but she doesn't pick up on what you are trying to say to her.
- You think she purposely ignores what you are trying to say because she wants to play happy families.
- You've tried to put up with him, but he's always in your face. He needs to give you a break – he's not your father. He has no right to treat you the way he does.
- Tell your mum you dreaded going home some days. You just want to be left alone, and if she won't stick up for you then you need to find somewhere that's more peaceful.
- *Be appropriately responsive to the things Lisa brings up in Exploration.*

### *Option Generation*

- That you live with Jessica and her family for now.

### *Private Session*

- You would prefer to live at home, you miss your mum, but Rob scares you.
- Your mum doesn't seem to get how uncomfortable things are for you. Ask the mediator if they can tell your mum what it's been like for you.
- Rob's daughters have told you how tough he was on them. He's doing exactly the same thing to you.
- You want to spend more alone time with mum without Rob around.

### *Negotiation*

- *Bring up things which might have been discussed with the mediator in private session*
- Tell your mum you miss how things used to be with her.
- The bottom line is you won't move home if your mum can't get Rob to change.

### *Outcome Statement*

- *Amongst the other areas of potential agreement, you want the outcome statement to reflect that you won't move home unless Rob makes some changes.*

