

Eviction Prevention Case Study
ABIGAIL

Abigail is a 44-year-old woman who lives in supportive housing. She is an intelligent, resourceful woman who has honed her survival skills. Prior to moving into housing, she had been homeless for about 10 years following the deaths of both of her parents, for whom she cared during lengthy illnesses. During her homelessness, she lived in parks during the warm months and in overnight shelters in the winter.

Abigail has no siblings, never married, and has no children. She does not appear to have any relationships with family or friends.

Abigail moved into housing 5 years ago. Prior to moving in, she had never lived in an apartment on her own, and had never paid rent. Although she resented giving up a portion of her SSI income, she usually paid her rent on time during her first three years in the building.

Abigail has significant chronic health issues and a severe untreated mental illness. She has no history of addiction, and does not drink. She does smoke cigarettes.

Over the past year, Abigail has begun to fall behind in rent. On several occasions, she has written a check for rent and then stopped payment. She sometimes believes that people are going into her apartment unit and moving or taking her personal belongings, and has also claimed that her identity has been stolen. These are usually the reasons she gives for not paying rent.

Although she had begun to pay \$25 extra per month on a payment plan, she has not made a payment in 2 months. She states that she is under a great deal of stress, and that she would find life less stressful if she were to return to staying at an overnight shelter.

- Depending on your role at your agency, how will you engage with Abigail to help her make a plan?
- What options are available to Abigail? What are her alternatives to returning to homelessness?
- Describe specific interventions you will use to help Abigail make a plan that allows her to avoid a return to homelessness.