

Scenario One - Liz

CM: Do you know of any barriers to housing that you might have? Specifically, credit issues or legal issues?

Hmmm, credit issues? Well, I haven't been able to apply for housing in a while but, when I applied a few years ago, my credit score was "fair." I had a felony conviction when I was younger, so that's made everything more difficult. And with my last apartment, my landlord forced me to leave but I'm not sure if it was an official eviction or why exactly I had to go. At the time I wasn't in a good position to investigate or argue the eviction. I know evictions can make it even harder to get a place – can you help me figure out what happened with my last apartment?

CM: Do you have a high school diploma, GED or vocational certificate?

Yes, I have a high school education. I actually started a nursing degree and was taking night classes for it, but when my mother passed away I had to drop out. I only had one more year left.

CM: How are Mario and Liz in terms of childcare and school?

I have a friend in Oakland who looks after Mario while I'm working but he's not always available and sometimes I skip or reschedule work to take care of him. There's no way I could bring him into work. My manager notices and has talked to me about it – they understand the situation but I'm still pretty worried they'll fire me if it keeps happening.

Liz is enrolled in school in SF but she's been having some issues lately. She does well in most classes but is having issues in math – she missed 5 classes last month and she'll probably fail it.