

PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSULTATION
JEFFERY DAHMER

DATE OF BIRTH: 5/21/60 (age: 28) ✓
EDUCATION: High school graduate
REFERRED BY: Gloria Anderson
DATE OF EVALUATION: March 10, 1989

REASON FOR REFERRAL:

Jeffery Dahmer was referred as part of a presentence investigation on charges of second-degree sexual assault and enticing a child for immoral purposes. Mr. Dahmer was originally referred to a Bureau of Clinical Services psychologist when he expressed to the investigating agent that he would commit suicide rather than be incarcerated. Due to inconsistencies in his statements he was referred to the undersigned for brief assessment while maintaining the confidentiality of the therapeutic relationship with the original therapist.

Mr. Dahmer was arrested for enticing a thirteen-year-old boy to his apartment where he took photos of him of a sexual nature. The child did not report this but claimed that Mr. Dahmer gave him a cup of coffee and added some liquid to it which made him extremely tired and his parents took him to the hospital. At that time the entire sequence of events was discovered. Mr. Dahmer denies giving the child the medication, claiming that there must have been residue in the cup that he used. He does admit asking the child to pose for pictures but claims that he assumed the boy was over eighteen years of age. Mr. Dahmer served a previous probation term for disorderly conduct. He had been observed by minors masturbating in a park. Though he admitted the offense upon his arrest, he presently denies it stating that he was just urinating after drinking a quantity of beer. There have also been previous disorderly conduct and shoplifting charges. There may be additional police contacts in other states. Mr. Dahmer was born in Milwaukee but spent most of his childhood in Akron, Ohio. He is the oldest of two boys. The parents were divorced when Jeffrey was seventeen. He stayed with his father who has since remarried. His stepmother is supportive of him. Jeff's biological mother was rejecting of him, and he has very little contact with her now. Difficulty with alcohol began at about the time of the divorce. He was unable to succeed in college due to his alcohol abuse. He then joined the army but received an early discharge, also because of behavior problems related to alcohol. He worked for one year in Florida and then returned to his father's home. Alcohol-related difficulties brought his father to suggest that he come to Milwaukee and live with his grandmother. Jeff has maintained stable employment since 1985.

EXAMINATION RESULTS:

Mr. Dahmer appeared almost one-half hour late for the interview. His attitude was resistant and evasive though he attempted to provide a facade of cooperation. Voice was normal, but anger and irritation were evident. Motor activity was normal. Jeffrey answered questions curtly and to-the-point, giving no additional information. When caught in inconsistencies or presented with additional information from the file he would regroup his defenses. The predominant mood was anger and agitation. Affect showed little correlation with content of discussion. Depressive tendencies were noted but of the reactionary variety to happenings he considers unfair or unjust. He is suspicious of the motives of others and feels that he gets a raw deal from life. Jeffrey is oriented to person, place and time. He shows good memory for both recent and remote past events. Attention span is normal, and he was not easily distracted. Insight and judgement are poor. He is not aware of any internal defects but places the blame for all events in his life on external causes.

In spite of Jeffrey's attitude, testing was valid and useful. The Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory was administered prior to the interview. The results indicate an individual who is open to many negative and problematic feelings. The profile reflects an individual who tends to be impulsive and unable to delay gratification. Acting out, lack of adherence to social standards and excessive alcohol usage are quite likely. He will be nonconforming and not fit into the social environment. Difficulties with authority, anger, irritability and a resentful attitude will be evident. Persons with this profile are frustrated by the lack of their own accomplishments, and this becomes readily evident in discussions with Jeff. He is very dissatisfied with his job and his present place in life. However, he has done little to this point to effectively make any changes. Guilt and remorse will be seen after periods of acting out. However, there is a lack of sincerity in that behavior will not change and there will be a tendency to quickly externalize blame. Jeff may initially be seen as energetic, sociable and outgoing. As acquaintance continues he will be seen as manipulative, distrustful, self-centered and narcissistic. Social interactions will be quite superficial. In fact, Jeff has no one who he describes as a friend. There is a tendency toward isolation. Though he presents a facade of feeling good about himself, there are deep underlying feelings of insecurity and inadequacy which he does not recognize. His self-dissatisfaction is great, resulting in suicidal ideation. This should be taken seriously since he does

appear to have the energy to act on it. He can rationalize suicidal behavior by blaming others and believing that they will feel terrible for causing his action.

Jeff has a very good ability to function in the world in a superficial way and not show others the depth, severity or extent of his pathology. This is positive in that he remains self-supportive even though he is significantly underemployed. It is negative in that others may not take his behaviors as seriously as they should. This is particularly poignant in his externalization of blame, sexual acting out and alcohol abuse. Mr. Dahmer's approach to the the Rorschach was one of noncooperation. Though the usual appropriate means to elicit engagement in the test were used, he only gave nine responses. Therefore, a structural analysis could not be made. However, the characteristics of most of his responses indicate his inability to deal with his immediate impulses and to monitor them. Thus he gave much useful information. There was a high degree of self-centeredness (egocentricity) expressed. This appears to be one of the most salient and consistent aspects of his personality. Empathic ability is low.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Jeffrey Dahmer presents as a seriously disturbed young man. Diagnostically he may be described as Alcohol Abuse, episodic; Atypical Impulse Control Disorder; and Mixed Personality Disorder, predominant antisocial and borderline features. If incarcerated, Jeffrey should be put on an immediate suicide watch. A suicidal gesture is quite possible as is the possibility of decompensation under stress. Psychotherapy could be offered, but it is doubtful that he would work on any deep personality change until long into his period of incarceration. He has the intellectual ability to use the time to further vocational development by pursuing a college or technical curriculum. He has the ability to mold his behavior to what is expected under many circumstances, though periods of crisis are to be expected.

If placed on probation, rules, expectations and consequences will need to be clearly spelled out and quickly enforced. Any contact with minors must be strictly prohibited. Manipulative suicidal gestures may be expected when under stress, such as being put in custody for a violation. Psychotherapy may be continued as a means of his ventilating his feelings and gaining a sense of support. As mentioned above, significant personality change is not likely to occur, but he may learn better ways of having his needs

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met. Though Jeffrey claims to be homosexual, his sexual identity causes him much conflict and difficulty, and this may be one of the primary areas where therapeutic intervention could help relieve stress. The only advantage to probation is that Jeffrey is employed and could continue working. However, he must be considered impulsive and dangerous, so enforcement will need to be strict. The pressure he perceives seems to be increasing.

If there are any further questions concerning this evaluation, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Norman Goldfarb, Ph.D.
Chief Psychologist-Supervisor
Milwaukee Clinical Services Unit

NG/MMF

cc: Dr. Goldfarb
Dr. Trachsel
Gloria Anderson
Clinical file