

PSYC 3011: Addictions Assessment
“Interviewing Techniques”
Program Transcript

KRISTEN: Good morning, Mr. Edward. Thank you very much for coming in. I know this is not very easy, but I appreciate your coming in and your willingness to talk with me today. My name's Kristen.

Before we get started, I would like to go over some basic information. And the first thing is everything you and I discuss today is confidential. There are a few exceptions, however, and one of those exceptions is if you tell me that you plan to harm yourself or harm anyone else, I will break confidentiality in order to protect you and the other person. Also, if you disclose any information about child abuse or neglect, I am mandated to report it.

And then lastly, if for any reason your records would be subpoenaed by a court, I am obligated to release them. Do you understand these limits of confidentiality, Mr. Edward? Mr. Edward? Do you understand that?

MR. EDWARD: Yeah, that's fine. Whatever.

KRISTEN: Well, let's start. My job here today is to gather some information about whether or not you may need some treatment, and if you do, what type of treatment would be most beneficial for you. So I'm going to be asking you a series of questions. There are no right or wrong answers. I just want to get a sense of what's really going on with you right now. OK?

And after the end of the session, I will probably have you fill out some papers, which is just some standard paperwork. OK? Is that OK?

LOGAN EDWARD: Yeah. I mean, whatever. Let's get this over with.

KRISTEN: Mr. Edward-- may I call you Logan?

LOGAN EDWARD: I really don't care.

KRISTEN: OK, all right. Well, Logan, as I'm going to be asking you some of these questions, is it OK if I take some notes so I can keep an accurate record?

LOGAN EDWARD: Yes, yes, yes.

KRISTEN: That's fine?

LOGAN EDWARD: That's fine.

KRISTEN: OK, all right. Wonderful. Thank you. All right. Why don't we begin by you telling me what brought you in today?

LOGAN EDWARD: My ex-wife. I mean, she's the one who got the judge to tell me that I needed to come deal with you people before I can see my son again. I mean, that's the only reason I'm here. I just need to see him.

KRISTEN: So he's the reason you're here.

LOGAN EDWARD: Yeah.

KRISTEN: You love him?

LOGAN EDWARD: Absolutely. I would do anything for him.

KRISTEN: Is he you're only son?

LOGAN EDWARD: Yeah.

KRISTEN: Do you have any other children?

LOGAN EDWARD: No.

KRISTEN: No? Tell me a little bit about why your wife won't allow you to see him.

LOGAN EDWARD: I don't know. I mean, she says I'm drinking too much and I'm irresponsible, but she doesn't know what the hell she's talking about. I mean, I didn't change. She changed. She's the one who started stirring this shit up, and just nagging me constantly and causing trouble. I don't know. I really don't know what the hell she even thinks about me or why.

KRISTEN: Why do you think she thinks you're irresponsible and might drink too much?

LOGAN EDWARD: I don't know. I mean, like I said, nothing changed. We started off, we'd always go out. We always have a good time. And then, I mean, things got serious, and she got pregnant, and so we got married. And all of a sudden, she doesn't want to go out anymore, and she starts bugging me about my drinking. I don't know. It doesn't make sense to me.

KRISTEN: Well, why don't we talk a little bit about the situation drinking a little bit later, and let me go on and get some more information from you? Is that OK?

LOGAN EDWARD: Yeah, that's fine. Whatever.

KRISTEN: So, where are you from?

LOGAN EDWARD: New York.

KRISTEN: Is that New York state or New York city?

LOGAN EDWARD: It's the city.

KRISTEN: And how old are you?

LOGAN EDWARD: 32.

KRISTEN: And you've been married just once?

LOGAN EDWARD: Twice. Divorced twice.

KRISTEN: Are you in a relationship now?

LOGAN EDWARD: I was up until about a month ago. Just a girlfriend. She said I was drinking too much, which is funny, considering she works all day at a bar.

KRISTEN: How long ago did that relationship end?

LOGAN EDWARD: It was about a month.

KRISTEN: And how far did you go in school?

LOGAN EDWARD: I dropped out of college my junior year.

KRISTEN: Did something happening or change?

LOGAN EDWARD: Not really. I just, I don't know. I got bored. I joined a fraternity. Just lost track. My grades slipped, and I don't know. I just was having a good time. I don't know, I just stopped caring.

KRISTEN: What about earlier, like in grade school? What was that like for you?

LOGAN EDWARD: Things were fine up till about in '07, and my parents got divorced, and my mom and my brother and I, we moved to New York. But I mean, by the time I got to high school, I'd made plenty of more friends, and things were fine. And I got a scholarship to college. Just the usual.

KRISTEN: What did you do after college?

LOGAN EDWARD: I joined the army. I spent six years in service, two extended tours in Iraq. Graduated sniper school.

KRISTEN: Honorable discharge?

LOGAN EDWARD: Yeah, absolutely. I mean, I would have gotten promoted more often if it wasn't for my lame ass lieutenant. Said I was trigger happy, but that's bullshit. I was just doing my job.

KRISTEN: Trigger happy?

LOGAN EDWARD: Yeah. I mean, you see combat, you get aggressive. Best defense is a good offense. But, I don't know. My lieutenant was lame. He held me back, I think.

KRISTEN: Were you angry a lot when you were over there?

LOGAN EDWARD: Angry as a typical guy getting shot at and watching his buddies get blown up, yeah. I mean, nothing unusual.

KRISTEN: Did anything happen to you while you were over there?

LOGAN EDWARD: No. I mean, besides the killing and watching your friends die, nothing out of the ordinary.

KRISTEN: Except for the killing.

LOGAN EDWARD: That's just war.

KRISTEN: Did you put anybody down?

LOGAN EDWARD: Yeah, sniper. I've got plenty of confirmed kills.

KRISTEN: What did you do after the army?

LOGAN EDWARD: Just mainly construction work. Odd jobs.

KRISTEN: How long did you do that kind of work?

LOGAN EDWARD: On and off for two years.

KRISTEN: Are you still working there?

LOGAN EDWARD: No. My boss fired me. Gave me some crap about being unreliable just because I showed up late a few times. I mean, I work twice as hard as anybody on that crew, and he singles me out for being late a few times. And it was just ridiculous.

KRISTEN: Can you talk a little more about that?

LOGAN EDWARD: I mean, I don't know. I was hung over some mornings, and he just freaked out about it. And, I don't know, it was just stupid.

KRISTEN: Have you had a lot of jobs?

LOGAN EDWARD: I mean, construction is contracting work, so it starts and stops, and slows down in the winter. So yeah, I mean, I don't know. Probably six or seven jobs.

KRISTEN: How are you doing financially?

LOGAN EDWARD: Not well. I mean, I've got alimony, child support, about to get kicked out of my place. This is probably the longest I've gone without work.

KRISTEN: And how long has it been?

LOGAN EDWARD: Almost three months.

KRISTEN: And how is your health?

LOGAN EDWARD: I don't know. It's fine. I mean, they said I had some high blood pressure when I got discharged, but that's about it.

KRISTEN: Do you take any medication for it?

LOGAN EDWARD: Not any more. Can't afford it.

KRISTEN: When's the last time you had your medication?

LOGAN EDWARD: Back when I had a job, so three months ago.

KRISTEN: Have you ever been hospitalized for anything?

LOGAN EDWARD: No. I mean, I never got wounded. I was lucky. I mean, I had my tonsils out when I was nine, but that was about it.

KRISTEN: Let's talk a little bit more about your childhood. Where were you born?

LOGAN EDWARD: I was born in San Diego. We moved when I was seven, when my parents got divorced.

KRISTEN: That must have been difficult for you, being separated by your father.

LOGAN EDWARD: Not really. I mean, the guy was a deadbeat. He was just hammered constantly, and was always yelling and screaming at my mom. He even hit her once. I stepped in. And that was it. That's when they split.

KRISTEN: Did he ever hit you?

LOGAN EDWARD: No.

KRISTEN: Did your mother ever hit you?

LOGAN EDWARD: No.

KRISTEN: Did you ever wish your father would stop drinking?

LOGAN EDWARD: I mean, I didn't really care. He was never really there, anyway. It didn't matter.

KRISTEN: Do you consider your father an alcoholic?

LOGAN EDWARD: I mean, he didn't have control over it, that's for sure. But, I don't know.

KRISTEN: Tell me about your relationship with your mom and your brother.

LOGAN EDWARD: Brother lives nearby. We still hang out every once in awhile. My mom, she lives with my grandfather, taking care of him. Still worries about us, just like she always had, just like mom's always do.

KRISTEN: Do you think your brother has a reason for being worried?

LOGAN EDWARD: I mean, she was worried when we were kids. She was worried about me when I was in the army. I mean, I guess, yeah. She's worried about me through all the crap I've been through now.

KRISTEN: Does your mom ever talk to you about being concerned about your drinking?

LOGAN EDWARD: No, we don't really talk about it. I mean, it just doesn't come up.

KRISTEN: Talk to me a little bit about the trouble that you've had.

LOGAN EDWARD: I've been arrested a few times. I mean, the first time was drunk driving, but I wasn't drunk. My lawyer got it bumped down to a speeding ticket, which was awesome. But his lawyer fees weren't that awesome.

And I spent a night jail because I got in a bar fight. This guy was hitting on my girlfriend at the time. You know, nothing major.

KRISTEN: Have you been arrested for anything else?

LOGAN EDWARD: I mean, my ex-wife called the cops on me. She said I hit her. I didn't hit her. God, I mean, maybe. Maybe I might have pushed her when she got in my face, but I didn't hit her. I'm not my dad.

Just, cops believed her. Made me leave my own house. I spent about a week in jail. I didn't have the bail money. By the time I got out, she'd filed for divorce, she'd filed a restraining order. I couldn't go home. I couldn't pick up my own stuff. I had to get my brother to get it. Though she kept most of it. I paid for that damn house. Just, it's ridiculous.

KRISTEN: How long were you in jail for the other two incidents?

LOGAN EDWARD: Just the overnigher. Yeah, I guess they were just both overnighers.

KRISTEN: Do you have any pending charges?

LOGAN EDWARD: No. I mean, I have the domestic violence conviction, but--

KRISTEN: But no pending charges.

LOGAN EDWARD: No.

KRISTEN: When you were arrested that night with your wife, had you been drinking?

LOGAN EDWARD: I mean, I had a few beers after work, but I wasn't drunk. I mean, that's what we were arguing about. She wanted me to quit drinking.

KRISTEN: Do you think that she thought you were drunk?

LOGAN EDWARD: I don't know. I don't care. She can think what she wants.

KRISTEN: Do you remember the first time that you ever had a beer or alcohol? And how old were you?

LOGAN EDWARD: I don't know. Maybe my dad let me sip a beer when I was six. But that was only until my parents split. I would say I didn't really drink at all until my adulthood.

KRISTEN: When did you start drinking again?

LOGAN EDWARD: College. I mean, I joined a fraternity. We partied a lot, almost every night. Especially me. I mean, I got pretty bored, so there wasn't much else to do.

KRISTEN: How much were you drinking?

LOGAN EDWARD: I don't know. Typical frat boy amount. Just enough to get drunk, I guess.

KRISTEN: Would you say it was a couple six packs, or a case of beer? What would you say?

LOGAN EDWARD: Yeah. A couple of sixers, I guess.

KRISTEN: Did you drink a lot after college?

LOGAN EDWARD: Not in the army. I mean, you're not supposed, but I mean, sometimes you do. But, yeah. I mean, I would drink when I was on leave. That's how I met my first wife. She was in the army, too.

I met her at a bar, and-- but yeah, I mean, I picked the drinking back up more regularly when I got discharged. I went back to normal, I guess.

KRISTEN: What happened to your first wife?

LOGAN EDWARD: I don't know. It was just kind of a stupid thing. We were both young and dumb, and got married on a whim, and she left me for some idiot. I don't know, stupid.

KRISTEN: When did you meet your second wife?

LOGAN EDWARD: It was right after I got discharged. We met at a bar, too, and I don't know. We just had good times together. Things got pretty serious. She got pregnant, so we got married.

And then when she had Eric, she didn't want to go out anymore, and she just started hassling me about my drinking and everything. But, I don't know. Things were always a problem for her. She just couldn't stop nagging me about anything and everything. It just got worse and worse and worse. I don't know.

KRISTEN: So how about now? How much are you drinking now?

LOGAN EDWARD: I mean, just-- I don't know. When I can afford some booze, just a few beers a day, maybe some whiskey.

KRISTEN: To get the buzz, does it require more now?

LOGAN EDWARD: I mean, definitely more than when I was in the army. A few beers and I'd be good back then. But now, yeah, definitely takes more.

KRISTEN: Have you ever drank so much where you've blacked out or you've forgotten what you've done the night before?

LOGAN EDWARD: Yeah. I mean, sometimes you have a bit too much fun, you tie one on. Yeah. Sometimes I wake up and can't remember how I got home or where I went the night before.

KRISTEN: How often does that happen to you?

LOGAN EDWARD: Every once in awhile. I mean, not regularly. Just every once in a while.

KRISTEN: Logan, when was your last drink?

LOGAN EDWARD: Last night, I guess.

KRISTEN: How much did you have last night?

LOGAN EDWARD: Just a few beers before I went to sleep.

KRISTEN: Have you ever felt sick when you stop drinking?

LOGAN EDWARD: No.

KRISTEN: What's the longest you've ever gone without a drink?

LOGAN EDWARD: That I'd been doing during my tours in Iraq. I mean, I guess a few months at a time.

KRISTEN: Since you've been home from Iraq, how long is your stretch between drinks?

LOGAN EDWARD: Once I got home, I just went back to normal. A few drinks every day. Whatever.

KRISTEN: What about drugs, Logan? Have you ever tried or used drugs?

LOGAN EDWARD: You said this was confidential, right?

KRISTEN: Correct. What we discuss here stays here. It is confidential unless you give me the indication that would harm yourself or someone else.

LOGAN EDWARD: Well, the girl I was dating, my ex-girlfriend, she would occasionally do blow. And so, I would do it with her.

KRISTEN: Was it better than drinking?

LOGAN EDWARD: I don't know. It was just something else to do, something different. We just did it. Get a little buzz before we'd go out.

KRISTEN: How often are you using cocaine?

LOGAN EDWARD: I mean, if I can afford any, maybe once every couple of weeks.

KRISTEN: How much were you using?

LOGAN EDWARD: Just enough to get a little buzz. Just a few bumps.

KRISTEN: Were you snorting it or smoking it?

LOGAN EDWARD: Snorting.

KRISTEN: Have you used any other drugs?

LOGAN EDWARD: No. No, ma'am. That's it.

KRISTEN: I just have a few final questions for you. Do you ever feel good about yourself?

LOGAN EDWARD: Yeah, I guess.

KRISTEN: Are there things about you that are your strengths, things that you really consider important or things that really make you feel good?

LOGAN EDWARD: I mean, I don't know. There are a few good things. Well, I don't know. Take orders. I work hard for anybody gives me a fair chance. I'm a good carpenter. I believe I'm a good dad, when I get the chance.

KRISTEN: What are some of your weaknesses, some of the things that you'd really like to improve?

LOGAN EDWARD: I guess my relationships could use some work. They never seem to really last that long.

KRISTEN: What about needs?

LOGAN EDWARD: Yeah, I got those. I need a new job, because if I don't find one, I'm going to need a new place. Never been out of work this long before.

KRISTEN: What do you do for fun?

LOGAN EDWARD: I don't know. Besides drinking? Just hanging out with my little brother when I can, and seeing my son when I can. And, I don't know. Just TV, video games, I guess.

KRISTEN: When you're watching TV and video games, are you usually drinking?

LOGAN EDWARD: Yeah, I guess.

KRISTEN: Do you ever feel sad?

LOGAN EDWARD: Yeah, sure. I mean, if no one's around, I'm all by myself and there's nothing to do, sure.

KRISTEN: How are you sleeping?

LOGAN EDWARD: I don't know. I can only sleep for a few hours at a time. I just wake up worried and stressed, and-- I don't know.

KRISTEN: What about your appetite? Are there any changes? Are you hungry a lot?

LOGAN EDWARD: Not really, no. I only get hungry about maybe once a day. Maybe I'll snack when I'm drinking. But, definitely not eating that much.

KRISTEN: How long has it been since you have not been eating very well?

LOGAN EDWARD: I'd say it's probably when I lost my job, so three months or so?

KRISTEN: Have you ever had a panic attack?

LOGAN EDWARD: No, I don't think so. I'm not even sure what that is.

KRISTEN: You mentioned sometimes feeling sad. Have you ever felt the reverse of feeling sad? Just feeling so excited about something you feel like you're on top of the world?

LOGAN EDWARD: No, nothing like that.

KRISTEN: Can you tell me today is?

LOGAN EDWARD: It's Tuesday.

KRISTEN: Without looking at your watch, can you tell me what time it is?

LOGAN EDWARD: Somewhere around 12:45.

KRISTEN: Can you tell what the date is?

LOGAN EDWARD: It's March 27.

KRISTEN: Have you ever felt really nervous?

LOGAN EDWARD: I mean, I guess the only time I felt really scared, really nervous, was when I was in Iraq. But never when I was stateside, never here.

KRISTEN: Have you ever had trouble paying attention or remembering things?

LOGAN EDWARD: Yeah. I mean, I don't know. I guess I kind of drift in and out of conversations if people are, I don't know, talking about things are boring or just not important. And I mean, I guess I lose track sometimes what people say.

KRISTEN: Do you ever misplace things or lose things a lot?

LOGAN EDWARD: I don't know. Sometimes I can't find my car keys, or my wallet, or I'll walk into a room and I can't remember why. But nothing unusual. I don't know, I guess I can be forgetful just like everybody else.

KRISTEN: Is there anything else that you've noticed about your memory or any changes?

LOGAN EDWARD: No.

KRISTEN: Well, those are all the questions I have, Logan. So, I think at this point in time, I wanted to go over some paperwork with you, and then we can sit and talk a little bit more about what types of treatment might be most beneficial for you.

LOGAN EDWARD: All right.

KRISTEN: All right. Thank you very much.

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