**M9-A. Michael Role-play - Part I: Pre-programme Assessment**

**Background**

Michael is a 38-year-old who dropped out of school at 15. He has three children from two different women and has never married. He stays in contact with his oldest child, 20-year-old son, Jamal, but he never sees his two daughters, ages 18 and 16. Michael grew up in a household with eight children and his mother, who constantly criticized him and his siblings.

Michael has had menial jobs for a few months at a time, but he was usually fired for being late or verbally abusive to his supervisor. Taking drugs, selling drugs, and stealing have been his way of life since he was 15 years old and dropped out of school.

Michael has been arrested for drug-related activities eight times over the past 20 years. He is addicted to crack cocaine, uses sedative drugs to “come down,” and drinks heavily. Michael has not been abstinent for longer than a few months at a time. He lives with several friends who also have substance use disorders. In the last 7 years Michael has entered community-based TC residential treatment twice and dropped out both times. His pattern has been to leave treatment within the first 60 days and to relapse into old substance use and petty theft.

Eight months ago, Michael left an outpatient program before completing it because he was unwilling to comply with the rules of the program, a violation of his probation agreement. This resulted in him being brought back to court and sentenced to 2 years imprisonment. His probation officer during the court appearance, recommended drug treatment while he served his sentence and the judge agreed. Nine months on, he has finally been referred. His probation officer has warned that he is angry and resentful about the wait.

**Pre-programme Assessment**

Michael appears reluctant on initial assessment. When asked the first question, Michael replies that he has given up on himself but will give treatment another shot to avoid prison. His defeatist attitude is evident. He has a negative view of TCs and recovery and displays a tough guy image during the intake interview. When the TC worker asks Michael a question, his response is, “You have that information. My PO sent it to you in his report.”

Michael eventually cooperates and gives the information required to determine his eligibility for the TC program and signs a release of information form allowing the TC to report to his PO. The intake worker’s report is sent to the supervisor of admissions. The intake worker calls the PO to notify him of the disposition.

**Are there any factors in Michael’ history that make him inappropriate for TC treatment?**