**[Baron Decker](https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/86523/users/241210" \o "Author's name) post to week 5 discussion one**

In this situation, first, the staff should encourage the daughter to divulge her sexual activity to her mother. Unfortunately, even in this case, clinicians do not have the legal right to disclose information against Tina's will, as she still is the legally responsible party. Per APA 4.05 b, exceptions can be made, especially in light of the potential harm to Vicotria's boyfriend, but other paths should be tried first.  A conversation between Tina and Victoria will prove vital in Tina's consideration of the potential next steps and may move the conversation forward regarding her HIV positivity. This should probably be done in the context of therapeutic intervention if at all possible, to mitigate potentially adverse reactions to the news and provide helpful next steps. If Victoria chooses not to disclose the information, however, then further courses of action need to be considered. At this time, more people are involved, and more potential harm to be done to others' physical well-being. Tina, who is still the legally responsible party for Victoria, needs to know her daughter's current sexual activity, especially since this seems to be a key factor regarding Tina's choice not to disclose her HIV status. The best-case scenario will be to get Victoria to communicate her relationship autonomously, however, the clinicians may have to seek different options, such as informing her mother that Victoria is in a relationship and push the subject on the communication of her condition.

When Tina is advised of the current situation, clinicians must stress the importance of divulging her HIV positivity to Victoria. Should she still refuse, the clinicians may have to advise her that there are procedures in place through standard 4.05b that allow clinicians to overstep the legally responsible person in cases that could prove harmful. At this point, Victoria is 16 years old and needs her condition, not only for her own health but that for her romantic partners.

From here, Victoria must choose to divulge the information to her boyfriend. He has a right to know the risk he is engaging within. Many individuals who do not have HIV express that they think it should be illegal not to divulge this information to those you engage in sex with (Horvath et al., 2011). Although opinions regarding complex ethical situations do not constitute a law, and often fortunately so, this is informative regarding the importance that people place on knowing how they may be affected. This will likely prove hard for Vicotria, as many find disclosure potentially damaging not only to relationships but to reputation writ large. However, autonomous disclosure, which is the willfully communication of one's condition for the benefit of themselves and others, has heightened possibilities for positive outcomes should it be done appropriately, with the right individuals who will provide acceptance (Gillard & Roark, 2013). Therapy regarding proper divulging techniques and self-care will be critical for her.

References

American Psychological Association. (2010). [Ethical principles of psychologists and code of conduct: Including 2010 amendments (Links to an external site.)](http://www.apa.org/ethics/code/index.aspx). Retrieved from http://www.apa.org/ethics/code/index.aspx

Gillard, A., & Roark, M. F.  (2013). [Older adolescents’ self-determined motivations to disclose their HIV status](https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/86523/external_tools/retrieve?display=borderless&url=https%3A%2F%2Flibrary.ashford.edu%2FAccount%2FLtiLogin.aspx%3Fcustom_redirectresource%3Dhttps%3A%2F%2Flibrary.ashford.edu%2Fezproxy.aspx%3Furl%3Dhttp%253A%2F%2Fsearch.ebscohost.com%2Flogin.aspx%3Fdirect%3Dtrue%252526AuthType%3Dip%2Ccpid%252526custid%3Ds8856897%252526db%3Da9h%252526AN%3D88109696%252526site%3Dehost-live). *Journal of Child and Family Studies, 22*(5)*,*672-683. doi: 10.1007/s10826-012-9620-2

Horvath, K. J., Weinmeyer, R., & Rosser, S. (2011). [Should it be illegal for HIV-positive persons to have unprotected sex without disclosure? An examination of attitudes among US men who have sex with men and the impact of state law](https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/86523/external_tools/retrieve?display=borderless&url=https%3A%2F%2Flibrary.ashford.edu%2FAccount%2FLtiLogin.aspx%3Fcustom_redirectresource%3Dhttps%3A%2F%2Flibrary.ashford.edu%2Fezproxy.aspx%3Furl%3Dhttp%253A%2F%2Fsearch.ebscohost.com%2Flogin.aspx%3Fdirect%3Dtrue%252526AuthType%3Dip%2Ccpid%252526custid%3Ds8856897%252526db%3Da9h%252526AN%3D53564648%252526site%3Dehost-live). *AIDS Care*, *22*(10), 1221-1228. Retrieved from [http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/caic20/current (Links to an external site.)](http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/caic20/current)

[Reply](https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/86523/discussion_topics/2411018?module_item_id=4375680)