

6. Educational Issues

— Education is usually woefully deficient. Frequently, the young adult needs to get their GED. *with car studies*
— At school, the young adult is often fearful of others, yet desperately wants to fit in and be accepted. This is more so than with other youth raised in the "world."
— Often, education is approached in one of two ways. Either the young adult is extremely motivated to succeed, work hard, and do exceptionally well, but at the expense of dealing with issues (they are like time-bombs internally). Or the young adult may give up on school feeling overwhelmed by the tasks at hand. The group has told the former member they won't do well because they left. This is often a self fulfilling prophecy.

7. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Issues *Childhood Post Traumatic Stress Disorder*
— Many young adults who leave high control, destructive groups suffer from PTSD. This presents a whole host of issues that must be addressed individually with each young adult (see handouts).

Solutions:

1. The young adult needs to be re-parented in an age appropriate way.
— Young adults born and raised in groups are frequently, emotionally delayed. They are developmentally behind their peers.
— They need to learn to be appropriately and productively independent.
— They need to learn social skills (appropriate attachments, follow through, using others financially, etc).
— They need to learn skills to think critically and wisely.
— They need to learn appropriate boundaries, reasons for them, and then internalize them.

2. Parents/caregivers and children need to be in family and individual therapy.
— Parents from communal groups frequently need counseling on parenting issues.
— Parents must also begin to deal with their own issues. The child will do better if the parents are on the road to healing.
— Need to find therapist (if possible) with understanding of PTSD and an understanding of thought reform.
— In many instances life skills will need to be taught to the young adult who leaves a group.