

Barbara Vela

Act II, Scene 3 (BGN) — Six years later

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You're worried about your daughter, Stephanie. Of course, you're almost always worried about your daughter, but this time is different. She's been seeing this Zack for almost six months now and you're worried that the two of them are getting serious. While Stephanie has had a number of relationships before now, many of which worried you, Zack's history is horrible. You don't want your daughter getting seriously involved with someone who sold cocaine to kids in high school!

Since her father, William, passed away a few years ago, Stephanie has finally been getting her life in order. She's been in therapy, has a job and is mostly stable. You're terrified that Zack will lead her down a very dark path, throwing away her future. How to handle it is the tricky part though. When you and William decided to stay tough with Stephanie and let her take her lumps for first DUI, she rebelled further. Being a tough parent has only pushed Stephanie away in the past.

You need to get Stephanie to see that Zach could undermine everything she's managed to build for herself since her father's death. However, you have to do it in a way that won't push her away. After all, if she responds like she did before, it could be very bad for her. At the same time, if she doesn't make the changes in her life that need to be made, she's going to wind up in a very bad place in the years to come.