

## 2021 Mock Mediation

### Round 2 Scenario

#### BACKGROUND

Jamie, Ashley, Sam and Nic are all good friends. They are all 17 and, except for Sam, would pass for 20-year-olds. They hang out regularly with an older group of students from UTS where Jamie attends. Sam is studying textile design at an exclusive college and both Ashley and Nic are still at school.

Jamie is studying graphic design. He/she is what most refer to as an “artistic genius”. The images he/she designs are both incredible and innovative and this contributes a great deal to his/her popularity with the older group he/she hangs out with.

Ashley and Nic are studying hard for their HSC and hope to be able to get into the field of Computer Science and Software Engineering. They both want to get a master’s degree in Engineering and Nic has already won an International Award for Algorithms in Action. The award was for coding of software applications to assist programmers or developers and he/she is the youngest recipient of this award.

Although Sam looks like the baby of the group, he/she is the oldest by 3 months and turns 18 next week. Sam’s parents and grandparents are in the Fashion Industry. His/her mother and father are both accomplished designers and Sam has followed in their footsteps.

Although the four friends come from very diverse backgrounds, they really enjoy one another’s company and constantly challenge each other’s creativity.

Sam’s parents have organised a celebration for his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and he/she has told his/her friends that most people coming will be his/her relatives. Although Jamie, Ashley and Nic will be invited to the party, Sam has told them he/she wants a separate birthday bash so he/she doesn’t have to hold back who he/she invites because of COVID-19 capacity restrictions, and where he/she can really have fun and let his/her hair down.

Jamie, Ashley and Nic are all up for the challenge. They came up with an idea to have a theme party at a trendy pub close to UTS. The venue is very arty, and their function rooms are cheap to hire. They all put their creative minds to work to decorate the room for Sam’s birthday party.

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#### INCIDENT

Sam's friends drew up a detailed to do list to ensure that his/her 18th would be a big hit with all their friends and associates.

Jamie took responsibility for booking the venue and designed a series of posters that complimented Sam's personality and style.

Ashley oversaw the catering and Nic the invitations. Ashley and Nic decided to work together as their tasks both depended on the number of people attending. It was while they were putting together the guest list that it suddenly occurred to them that they had a bit of a problem as most guests were underage.

Ashley and Nic were faced with a dilemma because Sam's party would be a bit boring as there were very few people on the guest list who would be over 18 and that included both of them and Jamie. Jamie had asked for his friends from UTS to be invited and since they all knew Sam they had been included.

Nic was a problem solver. He/she came up with an idea to produce a series of fake student IDs and circulate them with the invitations. It was a bit of a gimmick, but all the recipients had to do was add their photograph. The IDs looked very authentic.

Ashley was a little apprehensive at first and worried about people finding out. He/she was particularly fearful that if his/her parents found out that he/she would get into serious trouble.

Nic had limited legal knowledge but he/she was able to convince Ashley that the students IDs did not breach any government regulations. Besides, most people coming to the party would be underage and, Nic hoped, could be trusted not to get intoxicated or cause any problems.

Of course, everyone wanted to come to this party. Jamie, Nic, Ashley and Sam, all knew it would be nothing short of sensational and the theme "tell me your friends with Sam, without telling me your friends with Sam" stirred up everyone's creativity.

Everyone dressed up for the occasion and some of the outfits were amazing. The party was in full swing and everyone was well behaved. The atmosphere created by the four friends was electric. The manager of the venue was equally impressed and asked Jamie if he/she would consider a part-time role as a creative producer for their private events.

For the first two hours the party was incident free, and it was just when Ashley and Nic started to breathe a sigh of relief that one of Jamie's older friends from UTS started an argument with one of Sam's friends from college accusing her of being up tight. The girl was with a group of friends who rallied in her defence. Angry words were exchanged, and it was not long before a fight broke out causing many of the partygoers with fake IDs to leave the party in a panic.

The police had been called but by the time they arrived everything was under control and the main instigators (Jamie's older friends) had been ejected by staff at the hotel. The police checked the IDs of the remaining

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partygoers and didn't notice that they were fake. However, they did question Sam's ID. He/she produced both his/her driver's license and Proof of Age card, but this did not satisfy the senior police officer who insisted that he/she accompany him to the police station where he would call Sam's parents to verify his/her age.

Ashley and Nic left the party as quickly as they could fearing that once Sam's parents found out who had organised the party it would expose them as being under-age and they could also get busted for having false IDs. Neither Sam nor Jamie knew about the fake IDs circulated with the invites. Ashley and Nic had taken a big risk to do this and hoped that no-one would give them up.

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#### AFTERMATH

As it turned out Sam's parents were pretty cool about the police not believing that he/she was in fact 18 and once they sorted everything out at the station, they invited Jamie and a few of Sam's college friends back to their house for supper.

Sam on the other hand was really mad. He/she was having a great time and was really upset that the night had been cut short by one of Jamie's friends. He/she couldn't understand why everyone left the party in such a hurry.

Sam's parents were laughing about his/her ID dilemma and wondered how Jamie, being the youngest, was not asked to show his ID. Jamie explained that he/she was well known at the hotel because he/she quite often went there for lunch during the day with friends from UTS and he/she had never been asked for ID.

One of Sam's friends from college then let it slip that a lot of the people at the party had fake IDs and that's why they left in such a hurry when the cops were called.

Sam's parents became quite concerned about this and quickly realized that both Nic and Ashley had helped to organise the party and, as neither of them were 18 yet, it was possible they had fake IDs too. They decided to call their parents in the morning to try and get to the bottom of these rumours just in case the police found out and decided to charge everyone at the party who was under-age with fraud.

At first Ashley and Nic denied any knowledge about fake IDs to their parents but Sam's parents were insistent that they knew about it. Jamie called them both and asked if they knew anything about it and they confessed and told him/her they did it as a gimmick to get everyone to come to the party.

Nic said "they were only fake passes, and no-one was quizzed about them on the night so they must have been OK".

Jamie screamed at them both down the phone. Ashley hung up so Jamie decided to go around to his/her place with Sam and confront both Ashley and Nic. Sam went ballistic when he/she fronted Ashley and Nic. He/she knew his/her parents well and was convinced that they would get to the bottom of the fake IDs. Sam also knew that Ashley's parents were from the same cultural background with very strong values, and they would go mental if they found out about Ashley's involvement in this scheme. Ashley would be grounded for a long time!

Sam and Jamie's relationship were already strained because of the fight and neither of them was talking to Ashley or Nic. Sam's parents could see this escalating into a full-on feud and while they wanted both Ashley and Nic to realise the full ramifications of their actions they also wanted the four to attend mediation to resolve their differences and fix the problems. They also wanted all the fake IDs retrieved and destroyed.

All four friends agreed to attend mediation.