

Elder Abuse Scenarios

Scenario 1

Mr. D

Mr. D's niece called Age & Opportunity's Intake Line with concerns about her 65 year-old uncle. Mr. D's son lives with him, does not work, is not on social assistance and is suspected to be addicted to crack cocaine. The son is constantly asking his father for money, often hundreds of dollars a day. She states that if her uncle doesn't give his son money, he becomes physically aggressive and has assaulted his father on several occasions. Mr. D has told his niece that his son has gang connections, which makes him afraid to say no to his son. The son has pawned several items from the home. Mr. D's phone service has been cut off for over a month due to non-payment.

Mr. D's family is very concerned, but they stay away because they are also afraid of the son. Mr. D is considering selling his home and moving to a small apartment, hoping that his son won't follow him. The niece is very worried about her uncle's health. She said he is diabetic and hasn't been eating well. He has lost over 25 pounds in the past few months and is also showing signs of confusion due to lack of sleep. Mr. D reports that his son will wake him up all hours of the night for money, and often has all night parties in the home.

Scenario 2

Mrs. W

A WRHA Home Care worker has brought forward her concerns to her supervisor about her client, Mrs. W, 83. When Mrs. W was widowed two years ago, she sold her home and went to live with her daughter. The daughter works during the day and has two teenagers. Mrs. W requires Home Care for AM care due to multiple physical health issues. The Home Care worker has noticed changes in Mrs. W's personality; she is not as talkative and often becomes teary while talking to the worker. The worker is also concerned about the change in Mrs. W's appearance; her clothes often have stains or holes in them and her hair is seldom brushed. Mrs. W confided to her worker that she has needed new glasses for over a year, but that her daughter tells her that there is not enough money in her account. When Mrs. W questions how it's possible that all her money could be gone, her daughter gets defensive and tells her that if she keeps complaining, she knows a good "old folks home" where she could live. Her daughter tells her she's "expensive to keep" and lucky to be living with her and her grandchildren. Mrs. W states that her daughter likes to play bingo several nights a week and she is concerned that her daughter is gambling away her money.

Scenario 3

Mrs. G

Mrs. G's daughter called the Manitoba Seniors and Healthy Aging Secretariat's Senior's Abuse Line looking for assistance for her mother. Mrs. G is 72 years old and had been married for 50 years. Her husband was extremely physically abusive earlier in the marriage, but the abusive episodes had stopped in recent years. Mrs. G's husband is still a very controlling person and emotionally and verbally abusive towards her. Due to the constant emotional abuse, Mrs. G questions her self worth and struggles with low self-esteem. Mrs. G is very socially isolated and has no friends. Her daughter tries to stay in contact with her mother, but she does not go to her parent's house because she does not get along with their father. Her father also does not let her mother know when she calls.

Recently, Mrs. G told her daughter that she is considering leaving her husband. Mrs. G feels her small pension won't be enough to live on. She feels her husband will be so angry if she leaves, that he will try to avoid helping her financially. Her daughter would like her mother to be linked to information on legal and financial resources, housing options and most importantly, support.

Scenario 4

Ms. B

An anonymous caller explains she is concerned about Ms. B, an elderly woman in her eighties. The caller states that Ms. B that is living with her son (the caller's ex-boyfriend) in a home with excessive drinking, fighting and drug use. The caller believes that the police have attended to the house many times, but that they may not be aware that Ms. B lives there. The caller is also concerned because she believes the son is taking his mother's entire pension cheque and gambling and purchasing alcohol with it.

The caller states that there is never any food in the house and that Ms. B's weight had dropped considerably and that she only weighs 80-90 pounds. She said that Ms. B has broken numerous bones due to osteoarthritis, but that her son takes her pain medication and sells it. She said Ms. B lives in the basement bedroom, that she is incontinent, there are flies everywhere and that mold is an issue. The caller is also worried that Ms. B's "mind is going", that "her memory is not good", and that she "may be senile". The caller also reports that Ms. B has told her on several occasions that she wants to leave the rented house.

Scenario 5

Mrs. V

The building manager of a seniors block called with concerns about a resident whose rent cheque bounced for the first time this month. Mrs. V has been widowed for over 20 years and immigrated to Canada 15 years ago. Mrs. V does not participate in many of the activities in her block because she feels she still struggles with the English language.

When approached about the NSF cheque yesterday, Mrs. V appeared embarrassed and quite concerned insisting that she had more than enough money in the bank to cover a year of cheques. When the building manager suggested that Mrs. V contact her bank about the obvious mix-up, she said she would call a friend that helps her with her banking immediately. Mrs. V explained that since her vision had started to deteriorate, she has been unable to read her bills and needs help writing cheques. She also said that her friend translates a lot of the financial terminology into their language so that she can understand better. Over the past year, the building manager had met this new friend several times when she brought Mrs. V back from weekly outings to go grocery shopping and banking. Mrs. V spoke highly of the friend and introduced her to the building manager saying she is like a daughter. Mrs. V's only family in Canada, her daughter, passed away from cancer two years ago.

Mrs. V came to the building manager's office this morning to tell her that when she hadn't been able to reach her friend, she managed to call the bank

herself. She said she was shocked when she discovered that her rent cheque hadn't cleared because there was only \$80.00 in her account.