



Elder Justice Advocate Project Case Scenarios

Mrs. Davis

The History

- Mrs. Davis has owned her home for 43 years and has always taken pride in her gardens. She is a widow; whose husband was an alcoholic and was physically abusive to her and their three children
- Children:
- Jeffrey - the oldest, spotty employment, single, mostly lived with parents
- Kurt - middle child, committed suicide 20 years ago
- Carol - youngest child, Bipolar, has been inpatient x2, has a decent relationship with Mrs. Davis

The Ongoing Behaviors: Jeffrey

- Jeffrey's behaviors have always been controlling, but escalated after his father's death
- Forcibly enters Mrs. Davis's room, intercepts all communication, berates and threatens her, threatens to commit suicide if she doesn't comply with his wishes
- He tries to convince her that she has Alzheimer's because bills keep being missed or paid late
- Mrs. Davis suspects that Jeffrey has opened credit cards in her name
- He has destroyed furniture, ripped up rose bushes, pushed/slapped his mother

The Incident(s)

- Mrs. Davis was able to meet with Victim Assistance from her local police dept. She was fearful of confronting him or taking any further action, but kept the VAP's business card. Jeffrey found the card in her dashboard and became enraged
- Jeffrey shoved his mother onto her bed, causing bruising to her collar bone and pain
- A month later, Jeffrey threatened and disparaged Carol to family friends. Carol sought a TOP against Jeffrey
- Jeffrey blamed Mrs. Davis for the TOP and threatened to kill his mother & sister, to burn down the house, and to destroy Mrs. Davis's remaining gardens
- Carol was awarded a full stay-away OP. When Jeffrey was served he entered Mrs. Davis's room, strangled, and pushed her. She did not lose consciousness, but sustained bruising on her chest
- Mrs. Davis attempted to contact the VAP later that day, but the call was routed to Jeffrey
- Mrs. Davis left the house and obtained her own TOP; two hours after service, Mrs. Davis returned home and Jeffrey was still removing items (including some of Mrs. Davis's) from the home. VAP called 911 re: being on the property after having been vacated and for the theft of Mrs. Davis's items
- Community-based social worker assisted Mrs. Davis during and after the incident, finding 6-months of her bills & statements hidden under Jeffrey's mattress

Afterwards

- Jeffrey was charged with Criminal Contempt 2nd, Assault 2nd, and petit Larceny
- He pleaded guilty to Assault 3rd; larceny dropped; pleaded guilty to Criminal Contempt 2nd - sentenced to probation, restitution, 5-year criminal court OP
- Afterwards, an "anonymous" report was made to the DMV regarding Mrs. Davis's driving

Scenario 1:

- You receive a referral from a police officer for Mr. Jackson, a 75-year-old male who is living in the community. The officer states that she has been called out to the house numerous times, and that it's often for non-emergency situations (for example: the most recent call was because Mr. Jackson saw a neighbor throwing leaves on Mr. Jackson's lawn)
- You visit Mr. Jackson, and discover that the house is in disrepair; you observe grime covering every visible surface, and unclear pathways throughout the house. It takes Mr. Jackson several minutes to get to the door to let you in
- Mr. Jackson's self-care is lacking; you observe a significant odor about his person, his teeth appear long-neglected, and his clothing is in a state of disarray
- Mr. Jackson appears to retain capacity; he is very clear as to date, time, and place. He can articulate his frustrations with his neighbor clearly

Scenario 2:

- You return to Mr. Jackson's house a few weeks later. This time, his adult son is there as well. Son has recently lost his job and has moved in with Mr. Jackson
- Mr. Jackson tells you that his son has always struggled with keeping a job. He has schizophrenia, and while he does well when he is on his medications, he often goes off them because they make him feel "fuzzy. I'm not myself at all"
- You discover that the son has lived with Mr. Jackson off and on for most of his life
- You note that Mr. Jackson's demeanor is more depressed; he makes less eye contact, slumps his shoulders, and has a flat affect
- The house is notably worse than it was the last time you were there. Now there are flies all over, and one point of egress is completely blocked by son's belongings
- Mr. Jackson tells you that he wants to have the house cleaned up, but every time he's done it, son returns home. Son states that he doesn't think the house is that bad; he's lived in much worse conditions. He does not appear to understand the dangers currently present

Scenario 3:

- You haven't heard from Mr. Jackson in several years, when you get another referral from the same officer. She states that Mr. Jackson recently suffered a stroke, and that he has difficulty performing his ADLs. He also has aphasia
- You return to the house. Son is still living there. At this point, the roof is leaking and the house is still filthy
- Mr. Jackson does remember you, though he can't recall your name. He is oriented to place and time of day, but cannot recall the month or season of the year. He speaks in generalizations and is unable to provide detailed explanations as to what has occurred recently. While you are there, Mr. Jackson soils himself. He calls to his son, who berates Mr. Jackson and tells him to stop being a baby
- Over the course of several weeks, you monitor the situation, providing links to helpful referrals, educational programs, and personal care aides. Mr. Jackson is unable to provide appropriate consent or approval. Son accepts services at first, but refuses to follow through or pay, stating that they are "too expensive"