

## Case Study #2: Juan Garcia

### Group Leader Information

Reason for referral to APS: Need for assessment to determine capacity to give informed consent for medical treatment.

Referral made by: Staff at residential health care facility

Psycho-social factors affecting capacity:

Juan is a twenty-eight year old single man who came to this country from El Salvador when he was 18 years old. His status in this country is undocumented so he is considered an illegal alien. His parents were divorced and he has had no contact with his father. His mother and four younger siblings are still in El Salvador. For the past ten years, he has sent money home every week to support his family. When he was not working, he would go to the local bar and drink with his friends. Juan has a 6th grade education. His spoken English is limited and he is more comfortable speaking Spanish. He cannot read or write English. He seems to have a good relationship with one nurse's aide from El Salvador who is familiar with his hometown. He often depends on her to communicate his needs.

Physical factors affecting capacity

Recently Juan sustained multiple injuries, including brain trauma, in a car accident. He has slurred speech, unsteady ambulation, and a seizure disorder as well as mood swings and erratic behavior. He was moved from the hospital to a residential health care facility. Facility staff describe him as difficult to manage. He is becoming more and more agitated. He told staff that he does not want to go into the hospital again. A recent medical test showed that there is considerable pressure on his brain.

Prognosis:

If surgery to reduce the pressure on his brain is not done, his life will be in danger.