

Case Study #4: Rob and Wilma Benson

Group Leader Information

Reason for referral to APS: Possible financial exploitation

Referral made by: a concerned neighbor

Psycho-social Factors Affecting Capacity:

Wilma's demeanor is meek and apprehensive. She avoids eye contact and shrivels when her husband enters the room. Rob is a large man who smells of beer and seems overly cordial.

Physical Factors affecting Capacity:

Rob and Wilma Benson are in their seventies. Rob has heart and liver problems, as well as frequent urinary tract infections. He wanders away from the farm when intoxicated, and has been picked up by neighbors walking along the rural highway near his home. Wilma was recently hospitalized due to a head injury which she reported was due to a fall in her home. Her vision was impaired due to the injury. She appeared malnourished and significantly dehydrated upon admittance to the hospital. ER staff believed that the head injury and bruising on her body were not consistent with a fall.

Environmental Factors Affecting Capacity:

Rob and Wilma live alone in a rural area on a potato farm. Ten years ago, the Bensons turned the potato farm business over to their son and his wife, who promised to care of them financially from the farm revenue. The farm business has failed and the son recently put his parents' farm up for sale. The son and daughter-in-law are trying to get Mr. and Mrs. Benson to "sign over" the house and property rights to them. There are piles of newspapers in the home, and beer cans strewn about. Holes in the sheet rock at arms level, suggest someone punched holes in the walls. There is no evidence of fresh food in the home. The plumbing is not functioning. There are many cats and cat feces inside and outside of the home.

Prognosis:

The Bensons may lose their home. Mr. Benson's health will deteriorate. Mrs. Benson will suffer more injuries.