

Case Study : Anna Kovacs

Reason for referral to APS: Possible self-neglect

Referral made by: Visiting Nurse

Psycho-social Factors Affecting Capacity: Anna is an 82 year old widow. She and her husband Miklos emigrated from Hungary 40 years ago. Anna's English is limited. Miklos died suddenly of a massive heart attack one year ago. He had worked his entire life and managed the financial affairs of the home. They had one daughter who died 10 years ago of cancer at the age of 38. Anna had cared for her daughter during her two-year illness. Anna seems confused about her medications. She does not seem to understand the importance of maintaining her diabetic diet. She eats a lot of rye bread and processed meats which are high in sugar.

Physical Factors Affecting Capacity: Anna was recently hospitalized due to complications of diabetes. Her sugar levels were out of control. She had developed gangrene in her left foot. Two of her toes had to be amputated. She is beginning to have problems with her vision. After rehab, she was sent home in a wheelchair. There is no one providing in-home care.

Environmental Factors Affecting Capacity: Anna lives alone. Reportedly, Anna was an excellent cook and housekeeper when she was younger. Now the home is very cluttered. It is difficult for her to maneuver around the home in her wheelchair.

Prognosis: If Anna does not follow her diabetic medication and dietary regimen, she will be at risk of a foot or full-leg amputation.

Exercise:

How would you assess the risk?

How would you assess the capacity of the victim?

How would you assess the urgency?

What is next step in the planning process?

What interventions might you initiate?