

Case study - Joachim

Background	<p>Joachim is a 30 year old man who has learning disabilities. He lives in a rented house with two other tenants. He is outgoing, with a busy social calendar. All the tenants have seizures and support workers help with baths and showers in case one should occur at these times.</p> <p>Haydee, a support worker, tells her colleague that she is going to help Peter to have his shower. Joachim overhears this and says that he would like a bath before Peter because he is going out. Haydee shouts that he has had his chance earlier and would now have to wait. Joachim becomes quite upset and says that Haydee knows that he wanted a bath before going out. Haydee says again that he had missed his turn. Joachim explains that he had needed to wait so that he would not get his clean clothes messy but Haydee says that is just "tough". Peter says that he does not mind Joachim going first but Haydee says that Joachim can wait. She tells Joachim to sit down and shut up or he won't get a bath at all.</p>
What type(s) of abuse may have taken place?	
What are the factors that indicate this?	
What actions might be taken?	
By whom might these actions be taken?	
Comment	

Case study – Suggested response

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<p>What type(s) of abuse may have taken place?</p>	<p>Psychological. Neglect. Institutional.</p>
<p>What are the factors that indicate this?</p>	<p>Both Peter and Joachim were very upset. They were not allowed to make decisions for themselves. They had to conform to Haydee’s commands Joachim was refused a bath. Joachim was verbally abused by Haydee.</p>
<p>What actions might be taken?</p>	<p>Joachim or Peter or both might report the incident to the manager, either directly or through their family/friends. Other members of the support team could report the incident to the manager. The incident would be recorded in the daily log and in the care plans of Joachim and Peter Supervision for Haydee would be arranged and retraining may be suggested.</p>
<p>By whom might these actions be taken?</p>	<p>Joachim, Peter or their friends/family. Other members of the support team. The manager would undertake supervision of Haydee and recommend appropriate re-training.</p>

Comment	<p>Haydee may have taken this heavy handed approach for a number of reasons. Joachim may irritate her because she does not like him. Regardless of person feelings, all individuals in her care have the right to be treated fairly and with respect.</p> <p>Even if a support worker feels frustrated by an individual's behaviour they should not shout at people in their care because this is very poor care practice.</p> <p>The manager will carry out supervision, recommend further training and monitor Haydee's work performance.</p>
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