

Case study - Alysia

Background	<p>Alysia is 80 years old and lives in her own home, a rented bungalow, with her daughter. She has lost weight and her GP can find no underlying medical condition. He has made a referral to social services requesting respite care in a residential home for extra care and to have her weight monitored. Alysia has mild dementia.</p> <p>Her daughter brings her to the home at 8.30 am. She does not bring any change of clothing or night clothes and no money or debit card. The manager and care staff on duty notice that the daughter smells very strongly of alcohol that she has tried to mask with mints and perfume. She tells the manager that she can not have her mother home again under any circumstances.</p> <p>The manager asks whose name is on the tenancy agreement and she admits that it is her mother's name. The manager then suggests that her mother can return to her home when she has received sufficient care to bring her back to good health.</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

<p>Background</p>	<p>Alysia is 80 years old and lives in her own home, a rented bungalow, with her daughter. She has lost weight and her GP can find no underlying medical condition. He has made a referral to social services requesting respite care in a residential home for extra care and to have her weight monitored. Alysia has mild dementia.</p> <p>Her daughter brings her to the home at 8.30 am. She does not bring any change of clothing or night clothes and no money or debit card. The manager and care staff on duty notice that the daughter smells very strongly of alcohol</p>
	<p>that she has tried to mask with mints and perfume. She tells the manager that she can not have her mother home again under any circumstances.</p> <p>The manager asks whose name is on the tenancy agreement and she admits that it is her mother's name. The manager then suggests that her mother can return to her home when she has received sufficient care to bring her back to good health.</p>
<p>What type(s) of abuse may have taken place?</p>	<p>Neglect. Possibly financial.</p>
<p>What are the factors that indicate this?</p>	<p>Alysia is very under weight though the doctor has stated that there is no underlying medical condition. Alysia arrives with no change of clothing or money.</p>
<p>What actions might be taken?</p>	<p>Notes may be placed on the care plan. Further investigation may be undertaken by talking to Alysia. The social worker will liaise with the residential home. A case review will be held to bring together information from Alysia, the doctor, the residential home and Alysia's daughter.</p>
<p>By whom might these actions be taken?</p>	<p>The manager of the residential home. The social worker.</p>

Comment	<p>This situation demonstrates how vulnerable older people dependent upon their relatives can be.</p> <p>Alysia is very dependent upon her daughter and may not wish to complain about the lack of care she has received from her and may be too embarrassed to suggest that her daughter is taking her money.</p> <p>Alysia's daughter may have her own health and social problems.</p> <p>Family services will need to be involved to establish how they can provide further support for Alysia if she returns home. This could be community care package (especially around mealtimes) to ensure she receives a good diet.</p> <p>If Alysia returns home it may be that her finances need protecting and someone trustworthy is granted Power of Attorney.</p>
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