

- David is 74 years old and has had dementia for 4 years
- David has always been very active and independent, and enjoys going for walks or going shopping by himself
- A few times in recent months David has become confused while on trips to the town centre
- He has returned home very late several times, and once his wife Margaret had to search for him, finding him in a confused and distressed state
- Margaret is worried about David going out by himself, and is considering stopping him leaving the house on his own

Meet David & Margaret



Issues to consider

- How much should David's enjoyment of his trips be taken into account?
- How much should Margaret's concern for his safety be taken into account?
- To what extent should Margaret be able to restrict David's freedom
 - Not at all?
 - Electronic tagging to monitor his movements?
 - Door alarms so she can tell when he leaves?
 - Locking him in the house?
 - Physically stopping him leaving?
- Does it make a difference if David fights against efforts to stop him going out?

- Phyllis is 79 years old and has had dementia for 3 years
- She lives with her daughter Sandra and her family
- Phyllis is becoming more confused, and is less able to do things for herself
- Phyllis recently had a fall in the bathroom of the family home and fractured her wrist
- Sandra is worried about letting Phyllis go to the toilet by herself and thinks she should be accompanied
- However, when Sandra has gone into the bathroom with her, Phyllis has become very upset

Meet Phyllis & Sandra



Issues to consider

- How much should we consider the distress caused to Phyllis?
- How much should we consider the potential injuries she might suffer if not helped to the toilet?
- How much should we consider Sandra's concern for her mother?
- To what extent should she be assisted
 - Not at all?
 - Taken to the toilet?
 - Helped onto the toilet?
- How could taking her to the toilet be managed in a care home e.g. should she be taken every few hours whether she appears to need the toilet or not?

- Tina is 67 years old. She's had Alzheimer's disease for 8 years and now has severe dementia
- When first diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, Tina told her family that she would not value life with dementia
- She said that in the future, if she could not make decisions for herself, she would not want medical treatment which would prolong her life
- Now, Tina appears very contented in her care home, reading random pages from a detective story, drawing the same picture over and over, and eating her favourite food
- Tina has been diagnosed with early stage lung cancer which will eventually cause her death, but which is treatable
- Doctors have asked her family whether they want Tina to receive medical treatment for the lung cancer

Meet Tina



Issues to consider

- How much should Tina's previous wishes be considered in making this decision?
- How much should her current behaviour and apparent state of mind be considered in making this decision?
- What role do her family have?
 - Honouring her previous wishes?
 - Protecting her health?
- Would it make any difference if she had made a 'living will'?

- Pat and Bill are married and are both in their fifties
- Pat's mother, Jean, has Alzheimer's disease
- Since she became aware that her mother was sometimes forgetting to eat, wash and change her underwear, Pat spends a lot of time at Jean's house, helping her with general day to day life. More worryingly, Bill went around one day to find that something had been forgotten about in the oven for several hours and the front door was locked from the inside
- Jean has always said "don't put me in a care home". She is content with her life and, apart from dementia, is in good health for her age
- Pat and Bill feel that the only options are for Jean to move in with them or for Jean to go into care. They might need to build an extension and Pat would need to give up her job to be at home
- Pat's sons, aged 13 and 15, are reluctant for Jean to move in as if she does so, they will have to share a bedroom
- Pat and Bill are worried about the financial implications of Jean's care and the impact this will have on their life and future plans. Bill feels that Jean's care has been forced upon them

Meet the Jardine family



Issues to consider

- How should Jean's wishes be taken into account?
- What about the wishes of the other members of the Jardine family?
- Is there any way that Jean's needs and the needs of the other family members can be met?
- What should the role of health and social services be in this situation?

- Clarissa and Terry are both in their seventies
- Clarissa has been caring for Terry for the last 5 years
- Terry's health has never been as good as Clarissa's because his lungs were damaged through TB when he was a young man
- As he has got older, Terry has found it increasingly difficult to move around and be active as he easily gets out of breath
- In the last year, Terry has also been suffering from dementia, following a stroke
- Clarissa was providing full time care to Terry but has recently had a fall and needed a hip and knee replacement
- An older lady herself, she is increasingly struggling to look after Terry and has found the last year really difficult, as Terry's dementia means he needs even more support
- Social services have been around and believe that the couple are not coping in their current situation

Meet Clarissa & Terry



Issues to consider

- Is it important that their needs are considered individually or together as a couple?
- If they both need different types of specialist care, is it right that they should live in separate care homes?
- What if one or both of them refuse to go into a care home?
- What should health and social services do in this situation?
- How should Terry's wishes be taken into account, given his dementia?
- Should Terry be able to stay living at home, even if Clarissa doesn't want to be his full time carer?