

## Adult Protective Services: Case Planning

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### Case Study

#### Background:

Mrs. Long is an 85-year-old woman. She has an arrhythmia, arthritis, and some memory issues. Mrs. Long lives alone in a small, run down, single family home. She has a private caregiver who comes in daily to help her with bathing and dressing, as well as housework, shopping cooking and laundry. Mrs. Long has three (3) children, one of whom lives in the same town. Mrs. Long is not involved in any activities outside the home.

#### Situation:

Mrs. Long's landlord called the agency to report that Mrs. Long was way behind on her rent and utilities. The landlord reported hearing shouting and crying sometimes coming from the apartment. The landlord said although he does not want to, he will have to evict Mrs. Long if she does not pay back rent and utilities.

During the home visit, the APS worker observed that Mrs. Long appeared to be bathed and appropriately dressed. Mrs. Long's caregiver complained to APS worker that Mrs. Long is now expecting her to buy Mrs. Long's weekly groceries with a handful of change. Mrs. Long seems to no longer have any concept of how much things cost. Mrs. Long told the worker that the caregiver never bought food she liked, and "flinched" when the caregiver came close to her to refute that she always cooked good food for her. The APS worker did observe a bruise on Mrs. Long's right wrist. When she asked about it, the caretaker said she did not know what happened, and Mrs. Long started crying.

The caregiver states that Mrs. Long's memory issues are getting worse. During the APS interview, it was clear that Mrs. Long has trouble following a normal conversation. Mrs. Long responded to most questions with either a blank look or a very inappropriate answer. She was unable to answer any questions requiring problem solving skills such as "If your caregiver didn't come tomorrow, what would you do?" or "What would you do if there was a fire in your home?"

#### Questions:

- How would you intervene?

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- Would you pursue an involuntary intervention in this situation? If so, which intervention (Protective Service Order, Emergency Protective Order, or Ex-Parte Order) and why?

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