

## Adult Protective Services: Dynamics of Older Adult Maltreatment

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### Comings and Goings Script

You are a 68-year-old woman who has been married for 49 years. You are a homemaker who is active in church and enjoys time with your grandchildren. You have lived in your current home for 30 years. You tend a beautiful garden in the backyard and love your 10-year-old cat.

**Note:** Put the red CLOSED signs on the posters (with masking tape on the back) to remind everyone these options are no longer available throughout the exercise.

#### To Everyone

**#1:** Every Tuesday you play cards with your friends. This Tuesday as you prepare to leave, your husband starts to yell at you. He is so upset you call your friends and cancel your plans. You are concerned about your husband's increasingly controlling behavior. What do you and your cat do?

#### To Those at Home

**#2** A few weeks later you have plans to go to the annual church social. Your husband is not feeling well but you decide to go anyway. He becomes angry, grabs you hard on the arm and pushes you into the living room wall. You think he may have bruised your arm. What do you do?

#### To Those at Home

**#3** A few months later you go shopping with your husband. He is unhappy because he feels you wasted money on an air purifier that your doctor recommended to help with your asthma. He argues with you on the way to the car and slams your hand in the car door. What do you do?

#### To Those Not at Home

**#4** You left quickly so you need to buy some new clothes. You find that your husband has canceled your ATM and credit cards. If you want new clothes, it will cost you **\$2.00**. What do you do?

**RING BELL** *"Remember, whenever the bell is rung, you must pay again or move to another location. If you run out of resources, return home for the rest of the exercise."*

Allow time for participants to make choice about paying again or moving. It often helps during these first few scenes to repeat the choices and the cost.

#### To Those at Home

**#5** Several months later, your husband is angry that dinner is not ready precisely at 5 p.m. He pushes you and you fall down the stairs and break two ribs. You go to the hospital. He threatens to take your name off his company's provided insurance if you

don't return home with him. Without insurance, leaving him costs you **\$2.00** so you can get your medication. What do you do?

### **To Everyone**

**#6** You decide to get a divorce but find you have too many resources for free legal help. Do you get an attorney? If yes, it costs you **\$5.00**.

### **To Those Not at Home**

**#7** You decide to talk to your pastor. Your pastor reminds you that you made a promise before God to stay in this marriage for better or for worse. What do you do?

**RING BELL** *"Remember, whenever the bell is rung, you must pay again or move to another location. If you run out of resources, return home for the rest of the exercise."*

### **To Those at Home**

**#8** You have returned home from the hospital. Your husband now acts thoughtful, caring and supportive. Someone has called adult protective services. A worker comes to the home and offers to help you. She recommends family counseling and respite care for your husband. Accepting her help costs **2 goodwill slips**. What do you do?

### **To Those Not at Home**

**#9** Your husband begins to stalk you. You see his car when you are shopping. You find footprints up to your bedroom window. You file for a restraining order. For those at your son's, one night you overhear your daughter-in-law talking to your son about asking you to leave because she is afraid that your husband might hurt your grandchildren. What do you do?

**RING BELL** *"Remember, whenever the bell is rung, you must pay again or move to another location. If you run out of resources, return home for the rest of the exercise."*

For those with an attorney, your attorney has interviewed all the necessary parties and now needs **\$2.00** to file papers. What do you do?

### **To Those at Home**

**#10** Your husband is angry that you talked to "the government" who is now meddling in your personal business. One Friday night, he takes the shotgun out of the closet, lays it on the kitchen table, starts drinking and threatens to kill you. What do you do?

### **To Those at Home**

**#11** You hide his gun. He finds it, loads it and comes after you. You call 911. The sheriff comes, removes the bullets from the gun and the home and tells him to settle down. The sheriff tells you that jail is no place for an older man so he will not arrest your husband. What do you do?

**To Those Not at Home**

**#12** Your son says you can no longer stay with them. The domestic violence shelter says your time is up and you must leave. What do you do? **(Place CLOSED sign over domestic violence shelter sign)**

**RING BELL** *“Remember, whenever the bell is rung, you must pay again or move to another location. If you run out of resources, return home for the rest of the exercise.”*

**To Those at Home**

**#13** At breakfast, you can't find your cat. Your husband laughs and says, “We are better off without that Popsicle.” Later that morning you find the cat, barely alive, in your freezer. What do you do?

**To Those Not at Home**

**#14** The increased stress has taken its toll and your asthma now requires ongoing daily medical assistance from a skilled nurse. You cannot stay with relatives or at the shelter. You could move to or stay in the hotel for **\$2.00** or apartment for **\$2.00** and pay **2 goodwill** slips for medical help if you have the resources. You could go to the independent living facility, without your cat or husband and get the medical help you need but that will also cost you **\$2.00**. You could remain at home and have in-home services and your husband's “help.” What do you do?

**RING BELL** *“Remember, whenever the bell is rung, you must pay again or move to another location. If you run out of resources, return home for the rest of the exercise.”*