



Vignette* related to self-neglect

Mrs. M, a frail 83 year-old divorcee, lives in an affordable housing apartment in an unincorporated area of Orange County. She has 6 cats, one of which is pregnant. Five years ago, Mrs. M received approval from the landlord to have one cat which needed to be house-bound and trained to use a litter box. Because Mrs. M is very fond of cats, over the past four years, she has taken in 5 other stray cats. Mrs. M does not have any close family or relatives. Her only son died in an automobile accident about four years ago. Although Mrs. M does not recall the details of the accident, nor remember much of the funeral ceremony, she grieves his loss and has numerous photos of him in her living room. Mrs. M has many other items in her living room, as well – too many. She has been collecting newspapers since the Kennedy era. There is only one litter box for all the cats, but it appears that the litter box has not been cleaned out for several weeks. Mrs. M uses public transportation to get around. Because she cannot comprehend the current bus schedule, she is often found waiting at the bus stop near her apartment early in the morning to catch the bus that takes her to the local shopping center. There have been a few times when Mrs. M got on the wrong bus and was found wandering along a busy section of the downtown area. Recently, over the past 2 weeks, the landlord was informed by the mail-person that Mrs. M's mail box was too full to add any more mail. Most of it was junk mail, but among all the advertisements and sweepstakes notices were important bills and bank statements. The landlord knocked on Mrs. M's door but did not get a response. He tried to ring the doorbell, but it did not work. He knocked again. No one answered.

*All information from the vignette is made up and does not include actual APS cases



Vignette* related to physical, emotional and financial abuse

Liza is an 84 year old widow who has lived in her house for over 30 years. Liza's adult son lives with her in her home. He does not work or help her with household expenses like rent, utility bills, or food. Liza's eyesight is poor and she often needs her son to drive her to doctor's appointments or to church. When her son wants money he often threatens not to take Liza to the doctor or to church until she gives him money. Liza admitted he has grabbed her arms and wrists so hard in the past that she had bruises. Liza has also noticed money missing from her purse and credit card statements in her name for accounts she did not know she had. Liza said her son is constantly making a mess around the house. When Liza asks her son to help her out around the house by cleaning or picking up after himself he yells at her and calls her names. Liza said he often blames her for his problems. When family or friends call to speak to Liza her son often tells them she is not there or refuses to give her the phone. Due to this, Liza has been feeling depressed and isolated. Liza has started losing weight because she has lost her appetite, she is sleeping more than normal, and she feels less and less like going outside of her home. Liza is too embarrassed and ashamed to tell people at church or the senior center about her situation but has managed to tell one close friend. The friend told her she should make her son move out, but Liza is hesitant because she knows he has nowhere to go and she does not want him living on the street.

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