

Barbara Blue Scenario

Barbara Blue

Your life:

- You have been married to your husband, Steven, for 48 years.
- You have a son named Dennis who lives in Ohio with his family.
- You have been a homemaker throughout your entire marriage, and take pride in your homemaking skills and cooking ability.
- Several weeks ago, you were diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Your surgery went well.
- You are enjoying the peaceful surroundings at the CBRF, but you are anxious to get home. Your husband, Steven, comes to visit, and he seems lost without you at home.

You value:

- Your church activities and friends
- Fulfilling your role as a wife and mother
- Talking with your children and grandchildren

You appear in Scenes One and Four

Summary of the Scenario

This case occurs in Blue Hills Assisted Living Facility. Barbara Blue is a 72-year-old resident who is in a single room. She has been here for a few days following surgery for ovarian cancer. She has been married to Steven Blue for 48 years. She needs assistance with bathing, dressing changes, transferring, toileting, and medication. The facility staff, family, and friends are concerned that Mr. Blue is being verbally abusive to his wife. He tells her that she should come home NOW to take care of his needs. The doctor believes Barbara must remain in the facility for at least a few weeks before she will be healthy enough to go home; and only then if she will have someone who can care for her and not expect her to be doing housework or cooking.

Lives

- **Barbara Blue**, a CBRF resident
- **Reverend Marvin Mitchell**, Minister
- **Jamie O'Connor**, CNA in CBRF
- **Dennis Blue**, Barbara and Steven's son
- **Sonia Solomon**, CBRF social worker
- **Kelly Anderson**, CBRF supervisor
- **Lucy Blue**, Dennis's wife
- **Ron Records**, Documentation Specialist

Who is in each Scene

- **Scene One** (on Blue paper): Barbara, Reverend Mitchell, Jamie
- **Scene Two** (Green): Dennis, Reverend Mitchell, Lucy
- **Scene Three** (Yellow): Sonia, Jamie, Kelly
- **Scene Four** (Pink): Jamie, Barbara, Reverend Mitchell, Sonia

Barbara Blue, age 72

Starter page

- You have been married to your husband, Steven, for 48 years. You have a son named Dennis who lives in Ohio with his family.
- You have been a homemaker throughout your entire marriage. You take pride in your homemaking skills and cooking ability. You love to sew and spoil your cat, Marble.
- Several weeks ago, you were diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Your surgery went well. You have been moved to a CBRF from the hospital to allow you to regain your strength, take your medications, and receive assistance with personal care.
- You are enjoying the peaceful surroundings at the CBRF, but you are anxious to get home. Your husband, Steven, comes to visit, and he seems lost without you at home.

You value:

- Your church activities and friends
- Fulfilling your role as a wife and mother
- Talking with your children and grandchildren

Props: Picture of Marble the cat, get well card from Dennis

Scenes you are in: One (Blue) and Four (Pink)

Warm-Up

Barbara, Jamie, and Kelly

- Barbara is in her room reading her get well card from her son and looking at the picture of her cat, Marble.
- Jamie and Kelly are in her room and they talk about the weather, the cat, and the nice card.

Sonia and Reverend Mitchell

- Sonia is in her office going over her case record of Mrs. Blue.
- Marvin Mitchell, the minister, stops by to call on Mrs. Blue. Talk about the weather and general topics.

Dennis, Lucy, and Ron

- Dennis recalls fond memories of his mother's holiday molasses cookies with Lucy, the Facilitator, and Ron, the documentation specialist.

Scene One: Blue

Time: Monday at dinner time

Participants: Barbara, Reverend Mitchell and Jamie

Reverend Mitchell: Hello, Barbara! I hope you're feeling better. How're they treating you here?

Barbara: It's very nice. It's so restful here—nice and quiet. And the food is pretty good! Not home-cooked like mine, but you know...

Reverend Mitchell: Well, if it's half as good as the food you bring to church potlucks, then you're eating very well!

Barbara: That's sweet of you to say Reverend, but I don't do anything fancy. Steven sure must be missing it. He is so mad at me. I'm being a very bad wife.

Jamie knocks on the door.

Jamie: Hello, Barbara. May I come in? I've brought you dinner.

Barbara: Yes. Hello Jamie, come on in.

Jamie: I see your husband was here again, regular time. Did you have a nice visit?

Barbara: He was in an awful mood and it's my fault. I feel terrible about being such a bad wife. I am really letting him down.

Jamie: What do you mean?

Barbara: Well, he's always been the one who brought home the bacon and of course I fried it up. He just doesn't know much about homemaking and he really depends on me. He said there's nothing to eat.

Jamie: But it's so easy now. You can buy food already made right in the grocery store.

Barbara: Grocery shopping is my job too. He can't handle it on his own. He needs me. He really wants me home.

Reverend Mitchell: Well, it's good that you take your wifely duties so seriously, Barbara. I'm sure you and Steven will work things out.

Barbara: I feel guilty. Steven must be starving. I feel like I'm really not meeting my responsibilities as a wife. He said he might have to get rid of my cat, Marble, if I don't come home soon.

Jamie: Gee, it seems like Mr. Blue would be more concerned about his wife than his own comfort at a time like this.

Reverend Mitchell: Barbara and Steven have been married for many years, Jamie. We must respect their relationship and their privacy.

Barbara: Steven thinks I'm being lazy and selfish. He even said so today. I was sitting with some of the other ladies. He just yelled at me and said, "If you're feeling good enough to start up a hen party, then you're good enough to get your butt home and back to work."

Jamie: I'm sure he didn't mean it that way, Barbara.

Barbara: He said that he might sell my sewing machine if I stay here much longer. I think I need to go home in the next couple of days.

Reverend Mitchell: Oh, I'm sure this will all blow over, Barbara.

Jamie: Barbara, you must remember that you're recovering from some serious surgery. It's not lazy or selfish to try to get better. I hope you will rest more. In your Care Plan, the doctors say that you should stay for another two or three weeks!

Reverend Mitchell: I'm sure that Barbara knows what's best for her and her husband, Jamie.

Jamie: I guess you're right, Reverend Mitchell.

Scene Four: Pink

Time: Monday, early evening

Participants: Barbara, Jamie, Reverend Mitchell, and Sonia

Jamie: (*Knocks*) Hi, Barbara, may I come in? I've brought your dinner tray. Hello, Reverend Mitchell.

Barbara: Yes. Hello, Jamie, come on in.

Jamie: I see your husband was here again, regular time. Did you have a nice visit?

Barbara: He was in a bad mood and it's my fault. I feel like I'm really letting him down.

Jamie: What do you mean?

Reverend Mitchell: Oh, I'm sure it will all work out, Barbara.

Barbara: You know he just doesn't know much about cooking and he really depends on me. He said there's nothing to eat.

Jamie: It sounds like you are concerned about your husband.

Barbara: He just can't handle it on his own. He needs me. He really wants me home.

Jamie: Yes, but do you remember what the doctors told you?

Barbara: Yes, I am to stay here until I'm well enough to be able to go home. But that may take too long.

Jamie: I want to support you, Barbara. Can I call Sonia to come in and discuss this situation with you?

Reverend Mitchell: Jamie, the Blues have been married a very long time. I don't think this is any of our business. We should respect their privacy.

Jamie: You're right, Reverend Mitchell, but it's also my job to make sure Barbara's safe while she's in our care.

Barbara: Thank you, Jamie. I do feel safe here, but Steven was saying he might as well get rid of my cat, and throw out my sewing machine if I stay here much longer. I'm thinking of going home within the next couple of days.

Jamie: Barbara, there are wonderful people here who have lots of experience in helping in situations like yours.

Barbara: I trust you, Jamie. I want you to help me make this decision about returning home. What would you do?

Jamie: It is difficult to decide what to do. Can I get the social worker here to talk to you about that?

Barbara: Well, all right. I really need to make my decision soon.

Jamie: Let me get Sonia Solomon. I know she would like to help you with this.

Jamie calls Sonia's office and a moment later, Sonia walks in.

Sonia: Hello, Barbara. Jamie thought I might be able to help.

Jamie: Mrs. Blue has some questions or concerns about her care plan and when she can go home. I will leave the two of you to discuss this.

Jamie leaves Barbara's room and returns to her seat.

Reverend Mitchell: I need to be running along also.
Take care, Barbara.

Reverend Mitchell leaves the room also.

Sonia: Hello Mrs. Blue, what is your concern?

Barbara: I'm worried that Steven will not get enough to eat if I stay here too long. I know we talked about why I need to stay but I really do think I am well enough to go home.

Sonia: It's so important that you stay here as long as the doctor recommends, Mrs. Blue. Do you want me to set up a meeting with the doctor to review your progress and see when you can go home?

Barbara: I know I need to rest, but couldn't I do that at home?

Sonia: Why do you feel so strongly that you must go home? Are you afraid of anyone? Does anyone threaten you?

Barbara: Steven is very mad at me. I am afraid of what he might do. He threatened to get rid of the things that are important to me.

Sonia: You are free to make your own decisions, Mrs. Blue. But I would really like to give you some information before you make the decision. Does that sound reasonable?

Barbara: Well, I guess so.

Barbara Blue – Individualized Care Plan

(excerpted)

Diagnosis:

- 72-year-old woman
- Admitted after 5 days at Washington Memorial hospital
- Ovarian cancer surgery
- Anticipate radiation to begin next month
- Married
- Grown child

Special Note: Husband is around a lot and seems lost without her. Patient seems eager to improve and go home to husband.

Personal interests:

- Her cat, Marble
- Sewing
- Church activities
- Her son, Dennis

Needs Assistance:

- Bathing
- Toileting
- Transferring
- Incision care
- Medication management
- Range-of-motion exercises with arms and legs

Special Note: Needs significant rest. Avoid visits in PM. Should remain in care for two to three weeks after discharge from hospital.

Nutrition:

- Normal diet

Safety:

- No issues