

# Barbara Blue Scenario

# Reverend Mitchell

## Your life:

- You have been minister of Bethany Lutheran for 17 years.
- You have known Mrs. Blue as an active “regular” all those years, but you haven’t had much interaction with Mr. Blue, though he’s seems like a pleasant fellow.
- You work hard at keeping track of the members of your church and have visited Mrs. Blue twice while she was in the hospital and twice since she has been at Blue Hills.

## You value:

- Supporting your church members and their families, especially in times of crisis and life changes
- Visiting people in nursing facilities, because it is key to their mental and emotional health and recovery

**You appear in Scenes One, Two, and Four**

## **Summary of the Scenario**

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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

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- **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

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- **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

## **Reverend Marvin Mitchell, age 61**

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### **Starter page**

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### **You value:**

- Supporting your church members and their families, especially in times of crisis and life changes
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**Props:** Bible, phone

**Scenes you are in:** One (Blue), Two (Green), and Four (Pink)

## **Warm-Up**

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### **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

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**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 Two: Green

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**Time:** Tuesday evening

**Participants:** Dennis, Reverend Mitchell, and Lucy

*Dennis calls Reverend Mitchell to discuss how his mother is doing.*

**Dennis:** Hello Reverend Mitchell. It's Dennis Blue calling.  
Have you been to visit my mother lately?

**Reverend Mitchell:** Yes, Dennis, I just visited yesterday. She said she felt like she needed to get home and take care of your father as soon as she can.

**Dennis:** What!?! He's so self-centered. I just got off the phone with him. He was mad, talking about how my mother is "faking it, as always."

**Lucy:** (on an extension phone) I'm really worried about Barbara.

**Reverend Mitchell:** Perhaps your father is just very stressed out. It's hard work taking care of someone with cancer. I'm sure your dad loves your mother very much.

**Dennis:** Baloney! He has never done any "caregiving" in his life. And if he loves her so much, he has a funny way of showing it. He was just yelling at me about how my mother needs to get home now!

**Reverend Mitchell:** I'll ask some of the church ladies to bring over some food for Steven. That should help.

**Lucy:** Maybe we need to go to Wisconsin, Dennis.

**Dennis:** I think I need to come to Wisconsin and see for myself how Mother is coming along. But first, I'm going to call Blue Hills and talk to someone in charge. He shouldn't be bullying her there!

**Reverend Mitchell:** We'll do the best we can to support Steven and Barbara, Dennis.

**Dennis:** Thank you for that, Reverend Mitchell. I'll talk to you again soon. Goodbye.

## Scene Four: Pink

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**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.

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## Barbara Blue – Individualized Care Plan

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*(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