

Barbara Blue Scenario

Sonia Solomon

Your life:

- You have been a social worker at Blue Hills for 3 years. The CBRF has about 40 residents.
- You have also worked as a social worker in both hospital and nursing home settings. You help residents and their families adjust to changes in their health.
- You have just met Barbara Blue. She has only been at the facility a few days. She is going to be here for another 2 or 3 weeks.

You value:

- Ensuring that each resident is given excellent care
- Helping patients be discharged home successfully
- Supporting each resident's family while in your facility

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

Sonia Solomon, age 31

Starter page

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Props: Office supplies

Scenes you are in: Three (Yellow) 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 Three: Yellow

Time: Wednesday afternoon

Participants: Sonia, Jamie, and Kelly

Sonia: Thanks for coming in, Jamie and Kelly. Can you tell me what you've been observing about Barbara Blue, Jamie?

Jamie: She's such a sweetie... but I think she's afraid of her husband. She seems to kind of cower when he's around.

Sonia: Yes, it sounds like Barbara may be afraid of her husband. Tell me more of what you have seen.

Jamie: She's just always trying to be calm, telling him how bad she feels about leaving him to fend for himself. It's sure a different generation. She said she's thinking of going home within the next few days to take care of him.

Kelly: Gee, this is the first I've heard of any of this.

Jamie: Well, I don't think he treats her right, but Reverend Mitchell told me that we have to respect their marriage and their privacy.

Kelly: I understand that you would like to respect Reverend Mitchell's point of view, Jamie, but we must make sure Barbara is safe.

Jamie: Her husband threatened to get rid of her cat and sell her sewing machine if she doesn't come home. What can we do?

Sonia: Well, Barbara is able to make her own decisions, but there are a number of steps we can take, Jamie.

Kelly: Right, we don't expect you to step in if there's an argument between Barbara and Steven.

Sonia: I'm concerned that Barbara doesn't have enough support or resources at home. Her son is very willing to help but he lives in Ohio.

Jamie: It's too soon for Barbara to leave the facility. She still needs help with changing her bandages, toileting, bathing, and walking. I doubt that her husband will be able to help her.

Sonia: Thank you for your input, Jamie. Since you deal directly with residents, we want you to know that you can come to Kelly or me and report anything that doesn't seem right to you.

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