

# Bill Brown Scenario

# Betty Brown

## Your life:

- Your husband, Bill, is dying at home, and you are very sad. You have been married for more than 50 years.
- You can't imagine what life will be like without Bill. He has been your best friend for most of your life. Now it seems that there might not be anyone there for you.
- You have a lot of mixed emotions. Sometimes you are a good caregiver for Bill. Other times you just feel like not dealing with it and want everything to be okay.
- You miss your son, Brent, and his family who live in California.
- You feel as though you are losing control of the situation.
- You are worried about being alone.

## You value:

- Being respected as a caregiver for your husband
- Having support from your family and friends
- Your relationship with your husband

## You appear in Scenes One and Four

## **Summary of the Scenario**

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This Scenario focuses on Bill Brown, an 83-year-old man dying of cancer. Bill has been in extreme pain due to cancer for over a year, and he and his family have decided to stop cancer treatment. He is expected to die within the next few weeks. Bill's wife, Betty, has been providing home care for him for the past year, and Bill has been receiving hospice care for three weeks. He wants to die at home.

Bill and Betty have one son and three grandchildren who live in California. They have no other close family members in Wisconsin. Bill is on morphine and other pain medications. He has begun sleeping more as the drugs, pain, and cancer take over his body. He has only brief moments of alertness, is barely eating, and is rapidly losing weight. Rashida, the hospice aide, realizes that Betty is increasingly overwhelmed with the task of caring for Bill. Betty has not been turning Bill regularly, which has resulted in increased pressure ulcers. Rashida also believes that Bill has not been getting enough pain medication.

## Lives

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- **Bill Brown**, hospice patient
- **Betty Brown**, Bill's wife
- **Brent Brown**, Bill and Betty's son
- **Rashida Hoskins**, hospice aide
- **Albert Holmes**, RN Case Manager – Rashida's supervisor
- **Bea Console**, bereavement counselor
- **Shawn Wright**, hospice social worker
- **Randa Records**, Documentation Specialist

## Who is in each Scene

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- **Scene One** (on Blue paper): Rashida, Betty, and Bill
- **Scene Two** (Green): Rashida and Brent
- **Scene Three** (Yellow): Rashida, Albert, Bea, and Shawn
- **Scene Four** (Pink): Rashida, Albert, Bill, Betty, and Brent

## **Betty Brown, age 81**

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### **Starter page**

- Your husband, Bill, is dying at home, and you are very sad. You have been married for more than 50 years.
- You can't imagine what life will be like without Bill. He has been your best friend for most of your life. Now it seems that there might not be anyone there for you.
- You have a lot of mixed emotions. Sometimes you are a good caregiver for Bill. Other times you just feel like not dealing with it and want everything to be okay.
- You miss your son, Brent, and his family who live in California.
- You feel as though you are losing control of the situation.
- You are worried about being alone.

### **You value:**

- Being respected as a caregiver for your husband
- Having support from your family and friends
- Your relationship with your husband

**Props:** Letter from Brent

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

## **Warm-Up**

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### **Bill and Betty:**

- It is a good day for Bill.
- You can talk about Brent and his children.
- You just received a letter from Brent. Betty can read the letter.

### **Rashida, Albert, Bea, and Shawn:**

- You have just attended a staff meeting about collaborating with other agencies. Briefly discuss an interagency collaboration that you've experienced and how it went for you.

### **Brent and Randa:**

- Brent shows Randa a picture of him and his dad.
- Randa asks Brent about his childhood. Brent tells Randa about the good times he had as a kid.
- Randa asks Brent about his next trip to see his parents.

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## Letter from Brent to his parents

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Dear Mom and Dad,

It has been too long since I have been able to come and visit. Though we talk each week I would really rather be there to help you. I have been talking to Judy and the kids and I think I can come to visit later this month. I have to talk to my boss to see if I can get the time off. I will call you soon and let you know when I can come.

Please call me if there is anything I can do before I can come home.

Know that I love you and that both of you have been great parents.

Love,

Brent

## Scene One: Blue

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**Time:** Thursday, 1:00pm

**Participants:** Rashida Hoskins, Betty Brown, Bill Brown

**Rashida:** Good afternoon, Betty, it's very nice to see you! How are you doing today?

**Betty:** Oh, hello, Rashida dear. Please do come in. I'm so glad to see you. I've just been so busy today making lunch for Bill and trying to get all the house cleaning done. You know our son Brent is coming to visit! I have to get his room ready. There's just so much to do around here.

**Rashida:** I'm sure there is. And how is Bill doing today?

**Betty:** Oh, you know Bill. It's so hard to tell. I just can't seem to do enough for him. One minute I think he's comfortable and then the next he's complaining about not having a pillow or a blanket. There's always something.

**Rashida:** Well, let's go see how he's doing, OK?

*Rashida and Betty enter Bill's room.*

**Rashida:** Hello, Bill. How are you feeling today?

**Bill:** Not so good. My backside is really hurting me.

**Rashida:** Well, let's see what we can do about that. Betty, has he had his pain medication today?

**Betty:** Oh dear. You know, I don't remember. I think I did give him some this morning.

**Rashida:** *picks up medication bottle* Betty, there are eight pills here. Bill should have only two left. *lifts his blanket* And there are two new pressure ulcers on Bill's side. Betty, have you been turning him three times a day?

**Betty:** I didn't yesterday. I didn't want to bother him because he was sleeping most of the day. And you know, I've just had so much to do around here.

**Bill:** I haven't been moved in two days.

**Rashida:** Well, first off, let's get those pain meds going, Bill. And then we'll get you turned.

**Bill:** I feel sick and in pain most of the time. I'm so very tired. I just want to die with dignity.

**Betty:** Bill has been very hard to care for lately. He is sleeping more and talking less.

**Rashida:** We need to follow the care plan to ensure that Bill is comfortable. Betty, should we set up a pill box for you?

**Betty:** I don't know. I'm feeling really overwhelmed. I wish our son Brent lived closer.



## **Scene Four: Pink**

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**Time:** Friday, 1:00pm

**Participants:** Bill, Betty, Brent, Albert, and Rashida

*Rashida and Albert ring doorbell.*

**Betty:** Oh hello, Rashida. Come on in. I understand you met Brent yesterday?

**Brent:** Yes, we did meet. Hi Rashida.

**Rashida:** Hi Brent. I brought Albert, our nurse case manager. He's come to see how Bill is doing.

**Betty:** Thanks for coming.

**Brent:** Dad's been sleeping most of the day.

**Albert:** That's normal and it gives us a chance to talk for a couple of minutes. Betty, can we sit and talk about how things are going?

*All have a seat at the kitchen table.*

**Betty:** I just haven't gotten a chance to rest, with all of the cooking and getting the house ready for Brent...

**Brent:** Oh, mom you know you don't have to clean up for me. You have other things to worry about. Besides, I'm here to help!

**Betty:** Now, Brent, I won't have you coming home to a dirty house. I hardly get to see you at all!

**Brent:** Mom, I know, I just have so much to take care of with my kids now, too. I wish I could be here more often.

**Albert:** Brent, it's good that you're here to help now. Betty, I'm concerned that there is a lot of responsibility on your shoulders. I think we need to review some options that take care of *you* as well as Bill.

**Betty:** What are you thinking of?

**Albert:** As you know, Rashida and I are both interested in the best possible care for Bill, and I know the two of you are as well.

**Rashida:** It looks like Bill is starting to wake up. We should include him in this conversation.

*All move to Bill's bedroom.*

**Albert:** Hello Bill. Rashida and I stopped by together today to see if there are any additional needs or services that you might need.

**Bill:** Well, I'm glad you came over. I'm really worried about Betty. She works so hard taking care of me.

**Betty:** Oh Bill, I don't want you worrying about me! You're the one who's sick!

**Brent:** Albert and Rashida seem to have some ideas for all of us. I understand that it's possible to hire a part-time caregiver to help with Dad. I may live in California, but that's one way I could help. I'm happy to contribute to the cost.

**Rashida:** Betty, you mentioned that you hadn't been able to get to church lately. Could we contact your minister and see about any volunteers who might be willing to come in to visit with you or bring meals?

**Albert:** In our county, there are respite services available for family caregivers. I would be happy to call them for you.

**Betty:** Well I have to admit that I can't do this all alone anymore. I love my husband and I want him to have the best care possible.

**Bill:** I'll feel a lot better knowing that you aren't so overworked, Betty.

**Albert:** Great! Let's start with these ideas. I'll be back early next week to see how things are working out. Rashida and I will leave now and let you enjoy your family time together.

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## **Bill Brown – Individualized Care Plan**

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### ***(excerpted)***

#### **Diagnosis:**

- Terminal colon cancer

#### **Interests:**

- Reduction of pain and assurance of comfort: ensure that pain medication is administered regularly and that pain is managed effectively. Contact nurse case manager if pain management needs to be re-assessed
- Death with dignity: ensure that Bill participates in decisions about his care as much as possible

#### **Nutrition:**

- Provide favorite foods as tolerable; Bill's appetite is naturally declining as his body begins to shut down
- Do not try to push food; allow Bill to eat as much or as little as he wishes

#### **Safety and care instructions:**

- Reduce potential for pressure ulcers and risk of infection by turning Bill 3 times daily
- Cleanse Bill's body once daily
- Provide liquid morphine pain medication as needed, up to every 2 hours
- Provide food as patient requests
- Encourage to drink at least 8 oz of fluid every two hours