

CSAP's Online Courses

Module 3: Substance Use and Other Risk Factors

Case No. 2

Mr. C, 61 years old, is twice divorced and has significant health problems. He lives alone on the second floor of a walk-up apartment building. Mr. C has a history of family violence. He was physically and psychologically abusive toward his first wife and children. His second wife left him because of his frequent drinking binges.

In addition to his health problems, which include recent hospitalization for ulcerative colitis, Mr. C has financial difficulties due to his lifestyle of heavy drinking, which he subsidizes using his pension checks. Mr. C recently had a bad fall that resulted in hospitalization. He frequently refuses to take his pain medication, claiming that it confuses him.

Three of Mr. C's four children refuse to have anything to do with him. As his health condition deteriorates, however, his only daughter, Georgina, has stepped in, saying she will help out with the grocery shopping and driving. Georgina recently discovered her father is able to maintain his liquor supply through home delivery. She and her father have had several shouting matches as a result of this discovery. Following the last shouting match, Georgina locked her father in his room and withheld his dinner until he promised to stop drinking. Despite the fact that Mr. C has no signs of cognitive impairment, Georgina decided to intercept his pension checks to prevent him from using the money to buy alcohol.