



Case study five: Betty and Godfrey

Vignette

Betty and Godfrey have been married for 52 years. Betty is originally from Barbados and Godfrey from St Kitts. They have three children. Marcus and Gloria live in the USA. Angela, who is a carer for her son with complex needs, and her husband live nearby.

Godfrey is living with dementia after a diagnosis 18 months ago. Their GP made a referral for a carer's assessment for Betty due to her being stressed because of Godfrey's "increasingly unreasonable demands". As a result Godfrey attends a day care centre two days a week to give Betty some respite. Godfrey is described as 'a real charmer' and is popular with the staff and centre members.

The centre staff have noted that there is a 'volatile' relationship between Betty and Godfrey. Incidents include Betty trying to drag Godfrey out of the car to get him into the centre and Betty talking sharply to Godfrey because he was refusing to leave the centre when she came to pick him up. The staff find Betty trying at times. She gives them very specific instructions about how to provide support to Godfrey, for example what he can and can't eat. They have found Godfrey likes food that Betty says he doesn't like.

Recently staff assisting Godfrey found that he had bruising on both of his upper arms. A nurse who was visiting said they could be from being grabbed. Godfrey said that it was true, Betty had grabbed him when they were having a row, but that it was nothing to worry about "just the ups and downs of married life". The nurse told Godfrey about safeguarding and he said he didn't want a referral made.

When the nurse discussed this with the centre manager they decided that as Godfrey might not have had the capacity to make the decision about going ahead with a safeguarding referral because of his dementia, and because he might be at risk of harm before his next day at the centre, they would make a safeguarding referral.

Notes on Godfrey's and Betty's social care files refer to the police having attended the household twice in the last 8 months after calls from Betty during the late evening in which she said Godfrey was out of control and hurting her.



How would you make safe enquiry with both Betty and Godfrey?

Who will meet with each of them?

Where?

How will you contact them to arrange the meeting/s?