**First Meeting with Giovanni Cardola – 20 minutes**

**You have been asked to visit Giovanni, after the nursing aid assistant from the CLSC asked for some assistance to evaluate his autonomy.**

Giovanni has severe arthritis and walks with a cane. His doctor thinks it would be better if he used a walker, but he refuses. Several times, it has been suggested that he move to a one-story apartment because the stairs are very difficult, even after his hip replacement 3 years ago. The stairs are very steep to the back yard and the path leading to garage is uneven brick and needs to be replaced. Giovanni has two very old classic cars he likes to work on, polish and occasionally drive to car shows. They are collector items and worth a great deal of money, but he does not seem to fully understand their value. He can no longer drive because he has cataracts in both eyes. The maintenance of the cars is not possible anymore. He cannot even physically lift the hood. He fell trying to polish one of them a few months ago and knocked himself out on the concrete floor of the garage. He refuses to move because he wants to keep his cars and his nice vegetable garden. He bought this house for his wife just before she died. He has fallen in the garden also in the last few months, but not had any serious injuries. Recently he has been sleeping on the couch. The homecare worker cleans for him once a week, but noticed he has not ordered groceries in two weeks and seems to be living off of toast and coffee. He has type 2 diabetes, is somewhat overweight, and has a cardiac condition and a pacemaker. In the last few months his nutrition habits have changed greatly. He often states that he is not hungry or has already eaten. However, the homecare worker suspects that he is not remembering if he has eaten. He often is unable say what he ate exactly. On many occasions, the homecare worker noted that nothing seemed to be in the garbage can or compost. He will state he was eating vegetables from the garden. However, this year, there are almost no vegetables, because he cannot bend down to plant them anymore. The very few plants that are growing there, are growing from seeds which dropped on the ground last year. The homecare worker said that there were no dishes to do, indicating that he really has not eaten much this week. He appears quite confused these days about the time and date. He often talks about events from his youth, like they were yesterday and then loses his train of thought. He mentioned that he was worried his car wouldn’t be fixed on time “to take his new girlfriend on a date to the drive-in movies”. His short-term memory seems to be declining rapidly, in the last two months. He often will stop in midsentence, in conversation and ask you what you were talking about, or change the subject to something completely unrelated. Giovanni has not shown up at the Church or the community centre in a month and a half. His friend, Tino, was picking him up and taking him, but Giovanni said that he does not hear from him anymore. He said he took his pills this week for his heart condition, diabetes and arthritis. The pharmacy called you yesterday, to tell you that in fact more than half of them were leftover in his pill box, when they went to deliver this week’s set of medications to the house.

**Ideas for ACTOR’s responses:**

* “Are you the friends of Mathilda’s ( the homecare worker)? She said you might visit. I don’t really like her inviting her friends over to my house.”
* “It’s okay, I can walk, I have my cane, my grandfather gave it to me ya know, he was in WWI. Smart guy, he was in the airforce. I guess he did not do a lot of walking if he was flying all of the time.”
* “My doctor is over-reacting- wanting me to use a walker. I don’t need a walker, I am fine.”
* Mathilda got all upset with me because I tripped in the garden, it happens to everyone. It’s a little bruise, I am fine.”
* “ I prefer to sleep on the couch, it’s more comfortable in the living room and the TV is here.”
* “ I bought groceries yesterday, what are you talking about?” Besides I eat fresh veggies from my garden every day.”
* “ See this gut? Of course I am eating, don’t be ridiculous. I am Italian and a great cook!”
* “ Of course there’s no garbage, It’s Friday, I threw it out this morning , just like every week!” (garbage day is Tuesday).
* “ I went with Tino to the Italian community centre this past weekend. We had a really nice dance with some pretty girls we met in school. I took one of them to the drive in two weeks ago.”
* “ The pharmacist is lying, I have my pills, they are on the table. I had some left overs so I did not open those yet. Besides , the doctor said I don’t have to take the sugar pills if I eat right.”
* Ehh? What’s that? You need to speak louder; my hearing aids are old.”
* “If you are here to bug me about moving out, you can forget it. I worked hard for this house, my old Cadillac, my garden. I am perfectly fine on my own. My homecare worker helps with cleaning twice a month ( she comes a few times a week).” I am fine.

**Second Meeting with Giovanni- 20 minutes**

**1 week later: You have been asked to reassess Giovanni and try to encourage him to consider supervised housing/ participate in his health care plan. He has recently fallen again.**

The garage is in bad shape. He fell recently trying to open the old steel door, which always gets stuck. He has injured his knee and shoulder and is limping. The home care worker has noticed that he does not have a safety bar, nor a chair in the tub. She and his doctor have suggested having one installed, but he refuses to accept one. He allows the home care worker to clean but will not accept help for bathing. Giovanni appears to be developing hygiene issues, wearing the same clothes as the last time the homecare worker saw him, with mismatching shoes and unshaven. There are signs of incontinence and wetting the couch where he has been sleeping. The home care worker noticed this when she does the laundry. He will not discuss this and refuses to wear depends. The homecare worker discovered that he stuffed 2 months’ worth of hydro and gas bills under the reclining chair. He has not opened them nor paid them. You ask if he has gone to the bank in the last two weeks or called them to pay his bills and the mortgage. He said: “ I paid everything, this week. On the 1st of the month, like every month”. Today is the 17th th of the month, so he is clearly confused about this.

You ask him if the neighbour has come by to mow the lawn and help with the garden. He pays him 50$ a week to help out. He said yesterday he gave him 50$. However, the grass and garden have not been touched in at least three weeks and weeds are everywhere. The neighbour, Peter, is a 40-year-old man. The homecare worker wonders if Peter asks Giovanni for money often and then does not do the yard work, or if Giovanni just forgets to call Peter to do the work. Giovanni mentioned that Peter really loves his old classic cars and his house, and “he would love to inherit these”, when Giovanni dies.

**Ideas for ACTOR’s responses:**

* “Thanks for coming- You’re the neighbor’s kids right? Can you help me get the garage door open? I need to fix the tire on my Cadillac. I am supposed to have a date this weekend and I want to impress her.”
* “ I fell because the garage door was stuck. It’s not a big deal. I thought you were here to help me fix my shoulder and knee, not to tell me what to do.”
* “ So I am limping- so what? The cane is just fine, I don’t need to use the walker- I am not that old.”
* “Mathilda- She’s crazy- I can wash myself! I don’t need her help. Besides, she is not my wife. I would not want her to see me. I only let my wife see me, may she rest in peace.”
* “Are you insulting me in my own home- trying to say I am not clean? I took a shower yesterday. Mathilda came to do the laundry. You should mind your manners in other people’s homes.”
* “ I took my pills this morning, I only need them once a day.”
* “ Mathilda has no fashion sense, she just hates this sweater and thinks I look better in blue.”
* “ So I had an accident on the couch, no bit deal, I am old. It happens. Besides , I didn’t get up fast enough to get to the bathroom. It’s no big deal.
* “ I am not a baby, I am not wearing depends to bed- it’s embarrassing. I would agree to a commode in the living room for now, if necessary.”
* “ I can stay in the living room, my nephew gave me an air mattress. It is just easier. Besides I can see if the squirrels are munching on my garden and chase them away. “
* “I’ll just get Peter the neighbor, to take care of the garden for a few weeks while I recover and my shoulder and knee heals. He is a really good kid. He mows the lawn every week for cheap- 50$.”
* “Peter is great, when I go I want to make sure he gets a piece of this house. My lousy Niece and Nephew never help. I want to give them less.”
* “Mathilda keeps asking me personal questions about money- of course I paid my bills. I paid everything this week, I do it on the 1st of every month. (it is the 17th of the month). There is something wrong with the TV though, I cannot get Netflix, it won’t work anymore.
* “ My sister should be home from work soon, I should start making supper.”
* “It’s getting late, almost bed time, you folks should go now. “

**Third Visit with Giovanni- 20 Minutes**

**2-3 weeks later: Giovanni’s Neice and Nephew call you concerned because a friend found him wandering in the neighborhood. He fell yet again and seems more confused.**

Jeanie and Joe contact you and express their concerns for their uncle. They said they do not know if he has a will or a mandate, in the case he becomes incapacitated. They would like him to move into supervised housing, but he refuses. They really do not like him being alone. They are concerned about his memory issues, and are afraid he might fall and hurt himself. Tino, Giovanni’s very good friend, called his niece and nephew concerned. Tino has been to the house several times to pick up Giovanni for church and community centre events. Each time Giovanni has said he was “too tired to go”, and “maybe next time”. Tino’s wife, Georgia, called him a few times to check up on him and he did not answer the phone. Giovanni does have hearing aids, and sometimes forgets to turn them on, or replace the batteries. Another neighbor called them last week to tell them, they had to walk him home. They found him lost near a local corner store, unsure what street he was on. Jeanie and Joe do not have any legal power of attorney but would like to or to have someone take over their uncles finances and he should be in a residence with daily supervision. They think that this decline has been going on for too long and that he is no longer safe in his own home. Giovanni completely disagrees with his niece and nephew and thinks “they should mind their own business”. Giovanni feels that he is quite capable of taking care of himself and is quite angry at them for even suggesting this. He has come to believe that they just want to “steal his cars and his house”. Jeanie and Joe have no intention, nor the means to move back to Montreal. Both have partners, children, stable jobs and apartments in BC. They do not have the financial means to support Giovanni in long term care. Giovanni receives a total of 1139.00$ a month from: a small senior’s pension check (586$/month), part of his deceased wife’s pension check (350$/month) and a small amount of death benefits (193$/month). He had been a mechanic and owned his own business, but he retired at 65 and sold it. There are no savings left from this. His mortgage is 600$ a month, his car insurance is $150 a month, hydro is 120$ a month and gas is $75. Some of his medications are not covered and he must pay for them.

**Ideas for ACTOR’s responses:**

Niece and Nephew- If you decide to do a PHONE CALL-

* + JOE- impatient, frustrated a bit. Hello, I am Joe Cardola. Listen, my sister and I have called on more than 1 occasion and want to know what is happening with our Uncle Giovanni. He is not doing well and we have no power of attorney. He is getting paranoid and suddenly doesn’t trust us. What is going on. The home care worker keeps reporting he is falling, getting lost, not paying bills. Aren’t you guys hired to take care of him? We are getting really aggravated- he needs to go to a home.
  + Jeannie- (nervous) Listen I am calling just to follow up. My brother Joe Cardola called you earlier this morning about our Uncle Giovanni. I just want you to please place him. His friend Tino and Georgia called us to tell us they found him lost a block from his house. Tino said he won’t answer the door or phone when he calls. I know he fell a few times, but I don’t know what is being done. Can you please hurry up and place him. He is not safe.“ We cannot support the old man- we have our own families and live in BC.”

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* “ Those meddling kids! My sister raised nosey children. They just want the house. Joe- he wants the car.” They don’t deserve anything.”
* “ Mathilda said I should talk to you, my hip and ankle are bothering me a lot. I am not sure, but I think I tripped over a curb.” It’s painful to walk, but my cane helps.”
* “She is always offering to help me with the bath- don’t you think this is unprofessional? Shouldn’t it be a man coming to help? I would accept that, not a woman. “
* “ Of course I am sleeping on the couch, I sprained my ankle- wouldn’t you do the same?”
* “ I have plenty of money for food and bills, who told you that I did not pay my bills? I have my own business. “
* “Seniors pension?!? How old do you think I am?”
* “I ordered the groceries, they just forgot to deliver them this morning.”
* “ Tino, my old friend is very sweet, but he worries for nothing. I just didn’t pick up the phone because I sprained my ankle. I paid the car insurance. We are going to the dance on Friday with those girls from high school.”
* “Tino and Georgia, just over reacted, I was window shopping and they thought I hurt myself and took me home.”
* “ I might like a house that is on one floor. I am not sure what my wife might think thought. I would have to talk to her.”