



LONG TERM CARE: LOVE

Review each synopsis in this case study. Click the animated bar to continue once you have evaluated the situation.

SIMS VALLEY ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY

Introduction

Long-term care administrators need to decide what policies to set related to the intimacy needs of residents. The rules need to provide a balance between respecting the residents needs for expressing sexuality and the comfort level of staff. Staff may feel repressing one's sexuality as an older adult is more appropriate in a group setting.

Take a peek at what is occurring at the Sims Valley Assisted Living Facility.

SUSAN AND BETH

Susan and Beth are two employees of the Sims Valley Assisted Living Facility. They provide care to help residents with routine activities of daily living. The residents in their care are not able to do all the activities throughout the day, such as get their own meals or get dressed, but they are not ready for total long term care.

MR. BROWN AND MS. REDD

Two of their residents, Mr. Brown and Ms. Redd, have become increasingly interested in each other. They like to eat together and spend all afternoon watching TV together in the sunroom. Mr. Brown is married, but his wife who never visits him is eight years younger, still very active, and lives in another section of Sims Valley.

Rumor has it that she could keep Mr. Brown in her independent living condo, but does not want to have him there. She only visits when she does not have other things to do, rarely makes it a priority, or has a regular schedule to spend time with her husband.

MS. REDD

Ms. Redd is a widow and does not have children, so she rarely sees any family. She does have a sister in a neighboring state, but her sister rarely gets to visit, as she is dependent on her own children to drive her to visit her sister, Ms. Redd.

Ms. Redd is semi-confined to a wheel chair. She can walk on her own, but her legs tire easily, so she needs the help of the chair from time to time. Like Mr. Brown, she has some dementia, but is not considered to have Alzheimer's.

SUSAN AND BETH

Susan and Beth have noticed that the relationship between Mr. Brown and Ms. Redd has been beneficial to both of them. They seem to remember more and no longer become disoriented in the evenings.

Susan and Beth have talked to each other about the relationship they see, but have not shared it with anyone else.

MR. BROWN'S DAUGHTER AND FACILITY DIRECTOR

Mr. Brown's daughter came to visit one day and saw her Dad and Ms. Redd in the sunroom, holding hands.

Mr. Brown's daughter went immediately to the Sims Valley director, Jane Smith, to report what she saw and to ask "exactly what was going on between her Dad and Ms. Redd." The director told Mr. Brown's daughter she would get to the bottom of this.

CONCLUSION

Pause and consider the following questions.

- What should the policies be at Sims Valley to address relationships between clients?
- Should this relationship be considered a matter only between Mr. Brown & Ms. Redd?
- How should the director, Jane, involve the nurses, Susan and Beth?

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