
ALICE CASE STUDY

SLIDE 1

As a new counselor, you received a call from a potential client named Mary who was distraught over her mom's (Alice's) recent behavior. Mary stated that her mom's behavior was creating a huge rift with her siblings as well as a conflict within her own marriage.

SLIDE 2

Alice is a 76-year-old newly widowed mother of three adult children. Her husband, Al (82), passed away seven months ago after a very long illness.

Alice has been a very vital, energetic, and relatively healthy woman her whole life. Unfortunately, she was recently diagnosed a year and a half ago with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI).

SLIDE 3

Al was quite the opposite. Al smoked for many years until respiratory and cardiac issues forced him to quit seven years ago. Al was mostly a couch potato, however, as a couple, their passion was the movies. Together they would watch a new or old movie at least three to four times a week.

SLIDE 4

Alice and Al's children are Mary, 52, Maureen, 48, and Marty, 41. All three children live relatively close to their mom - within one hour.

Al had two brothers with whom he was very close: Bart, 75, and Cary, 72. As brothers-in-law, all throughout their marriage, they were very close to Alice.

SLIDE 5

Alice had a very fun and special connection with Cary since their birthdays were only a week apart and they shared very similar active interests - namely, biking and tennis. In the last year and a half, the children have noticed a dramatic increase of activities and interaction between Alice and Cary. However, the children didn't really think anything of it and in fact, they loved the idea of mom having company since it took pressure off them and their feeling the need to visit and keep mom busy.

SLIDE 6

However, three weeks ago Mary went to drop off a meal or "care package" before work at her mom's house and found her in bed with Uncle Cary.

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SLIDE 7

She flew out the door in complete shock and disgust.

She then called her husband and other siblings to begin to relieve herself of the trauma. However, more trauma ensued.

SLIDE 8

Her husband thought it was not so “bad” of an arrangement which set off several weeks of heated arguments and discord between them.

Mary’s sister was in complete denial and didn’t think anything “crazy” like sex occurred. Their brother played the balance position...not making any judgmental statements...yet not knowing what to think or do next in relation to Mom.

SLIDE 9

When talking with her mom, Mary found out that her mother had secretly loved her wonderful dad’s brother from afar and so did her Uncle Cary in return. Her mother disclosed that they even had conversations many years ago deciding never to act on their lust or impulses. She also stated that she was never unfaithful to her husband...even though the “initial magic” had left long, long ago.

SLIDE 10

In Mary’s request to the counselor, she wanted - almost demanded - that everyone get together to “right this wrong.”