

Case Study Solutions for Sam

Case study: Sam

Sam is a 45-year old man who has cerebral palsy and recently sustained a stroke. He now needs a wheelchair to get around. He lives with his wife and attends an adult day care center 5 days a week. His wife recently began working part-time. When Sam arrived at the adult day care center he tells you that he has been left at home alone for an hour each morning and that he has no way to get out of the house nor go to the bathroom. He states that this has been happening for the last 2 days, since his wife started her new job.

Questions

- What would you do first?
Things to consider: Has Sam's wife been responsive to other problems or issues? What are the immediate options?
To do: Call his wife to get more information and express your concern about Sam being left alone. If you think that she is receptive and is willing to create an immediate plan for Sam then this may be enough.
- What can your agency offer?
Do you have respite?
Do you have transportation?
Do you have case management?
- What services are available in your community?
Are there alternatives to transportation pick-up?
Are there other agencies that could provide respite?
Are there informal supports that could be arranged to accommodate that hour?
- Do you need to call APS?
Consider the following:
Yes, if this had happened repeatedly even with your intervention.
Yes, if there was no response by wife or she denies that it is a problem.
Yes, if there had been an injury or accident as a result of being left alone.
No, if this was the first day it had occurred.
No, if as soon as you contact his wife she wants to take care of it right away.

No, if she is willing to do something about it as soon as possible.