



Case Studies:

On the following pages you will see 3 case studies. As you read highlight relevant details then please identify the following & fill in the blanks:

1. Main vulnerabilities
2. Key behavioral signs of a HUT
3. Possible supports needed before/during/after the HUT
4. Potential consequences of the HUT

Case study 1 (Alison):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Case study 2 (Alex):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Case study 3 (Wilfred):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____



CASE STUDY 1:

One client named Alison who struggled with episodic mental illness recently obtained supportive housing after being homeless for six months. After a few months in her new home and much progress with her recovery Alison became less willing to let her case worker come to her apartment unit.

After about a month of insisting that her worker not visit her at home, stating that she was embarrassed because she was having trouble keeping it tidy, Alison admitted that whenever her ODSP check comes in, that Friday a woman that Alison knows from a shelter named Jen comes to her apartment and persistently asks to borrow money for food and cigarettes. Jen would ask so persistently that Alison would go with Jen to the bank and withdraw 300 dollars and give it to her for the week. Jen had recently come to her house the day after she had given her 300 dollars and asked for more money because the cash had been stolen. Alison was starting to worry because she felt she could not turn down her friend, but she was also struggling to pay for her own basic necessities.

After a few one-to-one conversations with Alison her worker met with other service providers to prepare her to say that her worker was holding her money and that she was no longer able to make withdrawals. When Jen was informed of this she managed to convince Alison to allow her to stay overnight and consequently stayed for the entire weekend. The following Monday Alison said everything was fine to her worker, but began to not come to appointments and was overtired and irritable when she did show up, stating she felt 'depressed and anxious'. It wasn't until several weeks later that she disclosed that Jen had been staying with her since she could no longer access money. Alison was a supportive housing tenant, as a result her worker had her contact the security office in her building and they provided a direct line to contact should Jen arrive at her door. When Jen did knock on Alison's door Alison stated that "she cannot have visitors or she may be evicted" and refused to open the door. Jen has not been back to Alison's unit; however, if Alison had opened the door her apartment's security was prepared to remove Jen and issue a no trespass notice.



CASE STUDY 2:

A 52 year old client named Alex lives in a high-rise in North York. He lives with multiple chronic pain conditions including IBS and rheumatoid arthritis faced chronic isolation and clinical depression due to the effect of pain. Alex began using opioid medications to cope with the severe daily pain, however, he found it challenging to moderate his intake because he found when he took more he could get more tasks done around the house and not fall behind on his projects for his work-from-home website designing career. Over the following year, Alex developed a severe opioid addiction, and was unable to get a sufficient quantity from the doctor to manage his pain, so he looked to illegal dealers to get the medication he needed. Before long, he made friends with his dealer and was struggling with a serious addiction, falling behind on work and letting his apartment become cluttered and dirty. He started hanging out at his drug dealer's apartment and made a few friends over the next 2-3 months, which he was happy with since he had not seen many people besides family in years. However, he gave his address to one of these friends, and before he knew it there were groups of 4-5 people in his unit daily, drinking and taking intravenous drugs and staying for extended periods of time despite his vocal requests that these people leave.

Alex stopped going to monthly family dinners, stating that his pain was very bad and he was unable to visit family or attend medical appointments. Alex had a grandson that he very much wanted to see but was unable to because of the condition of his unit and at the time his struggle with addictions. Alex's mental health worker helped him find another unit and referred him to an outpatient addictions service. When Alex moved into the new unit a photo of his old unit and his grandson were placed on the inside of the door. This was done so that every time Alex went to open his door he was reminded of what his old life looked like, his loved ones, and why he would no longer open his door for people who would take advantage of him.



CASE STUDY 3

An elderly man named Wilfred lived in a geared-to-income seniors apartment and invited his granddaughter, Sara to stay with him after she lost her job as a bartender. Claiming that she wanted to take care of him, Sara would frequently ask her grandfather for money and his bank card so that she could run his errands, do his grocery shopping, and pick up his medications. At first she would do these things, and Wilfred would notice a few extra dollars go missing here and there, but he accepted it as payment for the favours and decided not to mention it. After a few months, Sara began taking hundreds of dollars to buy alcohol, drugs, and other things for herself. She would convince him that he was losing his memory and that he had never given her money or his bank card. She refused to let him see his friends or have them over for visits, leave the house or use his phone, telling him that she was worried people would take advantage of him because of his serious memory loss.

Pamela, a friend and neighbour of Wilfred's who lived down the hall and was used to seeing him often noticed that he was no longer appearing at social gatherings and wasn't answering phone calls. Worried that the arrival of his granddaughter was having a negative effect on him, she visited Wilfred while Sara was out. When Pamela arrived she noticed that Wilfred had lost weight and the only thing in his fridge was beer. The apartment was in need of cleaning and it appeared Wilfred had been sleeping on the couch, as his room was filled with Sara's luggage and belongings. Wilfred shared what was happening and Pamela helped Wilfred understand that he was being financially and emotionally abused and his home taken over. With Pamela's support, Wilfred connected with an elder abuse worker who coached Wilfred on how to voice his concerns to Sara and tell her to leave. With Wilfred's permission, the worker was at the house and prepared to call the police if Sara refused.