

EAC 2019: Powering Elder Justice through Legal Health Check-Up Partnerships

Risk Detector Scenario #1:

Mary Test is a 70 year old woman (DOB 5/3/1949) who lives in a senior housing complex with 20 individual apartments. Ms. Test lives alone, and keeps to herself (she doesn't really have any family in the area). She has a smart phone (716-555-5555) and is okay with leaving a message on her machine. Ms. Test has an annual income of \$30,000, and she is able to leave her home without assistance. She has her own car to get around. Ms. Test lives alone. When she ran into her landlord the other day, he told her that she "should start looking for somewhere else to live." She also received a notice from ABC Property Management Company that she does not understand, and her most recent rental payment was returned. She does not have a copy of the notice with her, but it mention "termination." Ms. Test had been making several complaints about her water not being hot enough, and also about various repairs that needed to be made around the apartment.

A few months ago, Ms. Test spent two weeks at the hospital (she has Medicare). Since that hospital stay, she has had trouble keeping up with her bills (e.g. her credit card bills are a few months behind), but she has always taken care of them on her own and is trying to continue to do so. Because of her medical issues, she is no longer able to do the things she used to around her apartment. Ms. Test has an aide, Tracy Trouble, that provides in-home services, such as laundry, cleaning, grocery shopping and meal preparation, as well as general companionship. Since Ms. Trouble started, Ms. Test has noticed that she is missing some of her pain medication, and that her fridge is often empty, and no meals prepared, despite giving Ms. Trouble her debit card to go shopping. Ms. Trouble does not spend a lot of time interacting with Ms. Test; instead, she spends most of her time on her cell phone. The other day, Ms. Test overheard Ms. Trouble talking to someone and giving Ms. Test's address. Because of that conversation, Ms. Test no longer feels safe in her home and wants to get a new aide, but she is afraid to complain to the program that provided Ms. Trouble. Ms. Test does not want the program to drop her as a participant; she cannot afford to pay for these services out-of-pocket, but she needs them to continue to stay in her home and not have to move into a nursing home.