

Name:

REMEMBER: SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONES RESPONSIBILITY - We all have a role to play in the this “Gospel work”.

This situation is shared with you by a close friend over coffee. You are both members of the same local parish church.

Your friend tells you that after last Sunday’s service, Jasmine approached her and asked to speak with her in a quiet place. She unexpectedly burst into tears and explained that over the last few months she has become overwhelmed by her caring responsibilities for her son. Her husband is frequently away on business trips and they have had marital problems.

She admitted that last week her husband hit Arthur on the leg because he would not go to sleep.

She said it was only once and that she knows her husband did not mean to hurt Arthur. She said she feels terrible about this because her son now has a small red bruise where her husband hit him.

Jasmine also mentioned that her husband frequently shouts at her and she is often unable to sleep.

### Question 1 of 10

Your friend asks you what you think about Jasmine and her husband. Which is the most appropriate response?

- Gently state that it is not your place to judge the situation or those involved.
- Change the topic of conversation and ignore your what your friend has said.
- Give your opinion on them, no matter how negative

### Question 2 of 10

What are the main risks in this situation and for whom are they a risk?

- Becoming increasingly isolated and burdened by their caring responsibilities
- Continued abuse and suffering
- Being unfairly judged and treated like a criminal
- Being viewed as a place that ignores or condones abuse if this situation is serious and comes to the attention of the public
- Failing to advise your friend correctly

### Question 10 of 10

In terms of timings, how quickly should you refer this on?

- This is an emergency and must be dealt with immediately by calling 999.
- This can wait until either my friend or I bump into the Safeguarding Officer at church next week.
- Contact should be made with the Safeguarding Officer within the next 2-4 days to give my friends chance to try to remember more details and pass these on to me
- Contact should be made with the Safeguarding Officer within 24 hours

### Question 8 of 10

Which step should you take next?

Think about the three different options below and select which one you think is the most appropriate:

- I have no further part to play; I have advised my friend of what they need to do to take action, and this is where my responsibility ends.
- What my friend has told me should be considered 'safeguarding information'. I should make a written record of the conversation and refer this on to the safeguarding officer.
- I should contact Jasmine to ensure she knows she isn't alone, that I'm aware of her situation, and I want to help her find the best way forward.

### Question 9 of 10

When you are preparing your record for the safeguarding officer, in addition to printing your own name, adding your signature and the date of writing, what other 3 things would you include?

- Time and date of conversation with my friend.
- My thoughts on what should happen next.
- My opinion / interpretation of the information.
- Who else is aware of the situation, to the best of your knowledge.
- An accurate description of what my friend said, including any exact wording.

### Question 3 of 10

In terms of safeguarding, what are the concerns you have? Match up these possible types of abuse and whether or not they are a current cause for concern.

Neglect

Physical Abuse

Psychological Abuse

May be a cause for concern as Jasmine has reported being shouted at by her husband, and unable to sleep.

Is a cause for concern as Arthur has been deliberately hit on the leg.

Is not a cause for concern at present.

### Question 4 of 10

What are the ideal outcomes for this situation? Select ALL that apply:

- Punishment for Jasmine's husband and separation of him from the family. This is the most effective way to deal with such family problems.
- That you and your friend involve the safeguarding officer as soon as possible.
- Ensure the safety of Jasmine and Arthur to protect them from harm from potential abuse.
- For the whole family to find security, support and stability through their connection to the church.
- If the right support is in place, we should give an opportunity for repentance and reconciliation.

### Question 7 of 10

Your friend states that they don't know what they should do next, and asks you for advice.

Thinking carefully about all that's been covered in this course, what would you advise them to do? (Select two):

- Your friend should be sure to find some hard evidence to back up the claims being made.
- I advise my friend should maintain contact with Jasmine and support her as needed, but not actively investigate or ask leading questions.
- I advise that they should not share this information with anyone else, but make a record of their conversation with Jasmine and speak with the safeguarding office as soon as possible.
- As many people within the church leadership should be told as soon as possible so the incident isn't dismissed.

### Question 6 of 10

Your friend also mentions that they have already spoken to the Children and Families Minister some months ago about a similar situation regarding Jasmine and Arthur. They advised your friend that Jasmine should forgive her husband and move on. They stated that there was nothing more to be done from their perspective and that we shouldn't get involved in other people's business.

What are your thoughts about this? (Select two):

- We should submit to the authority of those whom God has appointed as leaders in the church, and their wider experience (eg Hebrews 13:17). Therefore, we should not take this matter any further.
- I would consider going back with my friend to see the Children and Families minister in order to challenge their views and find an agreed way forward.
- I would ask my friend if they kept a record of what led them to speak with the Children and Families Minister, as this could be helpful to show how long this may have been going on for.
- Whilst I think forgiveness and reconciliation are good things, we also need to act to protect those who are suffering and prevent potential abuse from continuing (eg Psalm 12).

### Question 5 of 10

How might the actions selected on the previous page be brought about?

Think about how you could realistically respond and what would be best for everybody involved.

SELECT 2 from the responses below:

- Deciding not to take this any further to avoid serious negative implications for Jasmine or her husband, and the alienation of their family from the church.
- Reporting to the Safeguarding Officer, whose job it is to handle situations like this and who is in the best position to decide the best course of action.
- Paying a visit to Jasmine and Arthur whilst the husband is home, and observing them in order to assess how serious this really is.
- Ensuring that both Jasmine and Arthur are able to keep coming to church, and maintain ongoing contact with them.