

### Case 5:

Just last Friday we had a group of neighbors come to the university. They came with what they thought was an elder abuse problem. It referred to an older gentleman, in the seventies, whose wife six months earlier had been admitted to a mental hospital. The wife was about twenty years younger.

When the wife came back from the mental hospital, she came with a live-in boyfriend. The live-in boyfriend took some exception to the husband. During the winter the neighbors frequently saw the husband out in cold weather wearing slippers and without an overcoat. They began to realize that he wasn't allowed in the house for much of the day but had to live essentially in the basement. He was made to chop wood, do heavy duties, despite the fact that it was known in the community that this fellow had a heart condition and was somewhat frail.

Several of the neighbors called the police in. The police apparently did an investigation but couldn't lay charges. It fell between the legal stools. In this particular instance, the husband died. Two or three months after, the neighbors were still concerned enough to want to try to prevent this kind of thing from happening in the future.<sup>6</sup>

### Case 6:

We have a case of a neighbor harassing a 76-year old. Yesterday evening, this woman called because she was at her wit's end. She was breaking down. She has had four heart attacks since last fall. It is the neighbors, who have been trying for a year and a half to get rid of an easement between two houses. They have done everything imaginable to make that person give up the easement. They have had restaurants make deliveries to the house, they have had taxis sent to the house. They have bothered that person in every possible manner. The person knocked on every door for help and none was given. I think she even had problems with her lawyer who didn't defend her interests properly.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Stones, 6:5

<sup>7</sup> Couture, 4:28