

Tma02 k101



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

To really understand the concept of being a carer, it is important to clarify the definition of a carer.

According to The Princess Royal Trust, a carer is a person who looks after a member of family, friend or a neighbour who is ill, disabled and are unable to look after themselves unpaid (The Princess Royal Trust, online 14/10/11). To illustrate and discuss the characters further (k101, Unit 1): Ann takes care of her stepfather, Angus, who is old age, frail and has Parkinson's disease. He requires assistance through normal daily activities which involves dressing, bathing, toileting, feeding and general social involvement. Ann lives in Angus' house rent free with her husband, Bob, and their daughter Zoe.

Ann feels it is her duty to look after Angus and it is her role as she promised her mother before she passed away that she would look after Angus. Ann denies the fact that she is a carer and feels that she is expected to take these roles on herself without any outside assistance. Ann puts herself and Angus at risk by lifting and handling Angus in and out of the bath and a helping hand up and down the stairs. Manual handling in environments such as residential homes and nursing homes are taken seriously and there are procedures to follow to comply with health and safety legislation, yet in situations set as above, Ann or Angus does not take this into consideration. Ann is neglecting her husband as she spends so much time caring for Angus. Her daughter is also feeling neglected as she requires support with her school work. Unfortunately for Ann, her husband does not always agree with Angus which puts more stress on her. Bob could actually help out a little to

relieve the stress from Ann, but due to this situation, Bob probably feels resentful in helping out.

Caring for someone can be physically and emotionally demanding as Ann also takes care of Angus's personal needs. This can be awkward for family members and Angus probably feels extremely embarrassed, but he has no choice. Ann visited her GP as she was feeling very emotional and exhausted, her GP prescribed her with Anti-depressants. Ann is far too focused on Angus's needs rather than her own and her family. Her GP had not questioned Ann as to why she was depressed and therefore missed the opportunity to promote information on support and guidance from organisations supporting unpaid carers.

Although Ann denies that fact that she is a carer, she does seem to qualify under the government's definition of a carer to receive financial support according to the Government; she must care for Angus for at least thirty-five hours per week (Directgov, online 15/10/11). It would seem that Ann does carry out this amount of time spent caring for Angus on a weekly basis and even more if Angus's condition is worse. Ann gave up her job to take care of Angus, but feels as she is living in his home for rent free, she would feel guilty for taking any money for taking care of him. Depending on the local Council, the Social Services Department assesses the situation, whether to determine that Ann meets the criteria of financial support and/or Also, whether Angus would require equipment to help with lifting and handling, such as rails for the stairs or for the bathroom to help assist him and Ann. The sense of achievement that Ann feels from taking care of her Stepfather are rewarding, as she is reassured that she kept her promise to her mother.

She feels that taking care of Angus makes him comfortable and having someone familiar to do the roles reassures him. She does take pride in her caring role, as she has gained knowledge and skills and is confident in taking care of Angus and believes it is for the best as she feels that Angus would probably feel uncomfortable and uncertain about strange paid carers entering his home.

With Ann not recognising herself as a carer, this will only bring more stress and burden upon herself and the family. Although there are more difficulties than rewards with this case, realistically Ann requires more support from outside resources, for example, Social Services who will assess and guide her with financial issues and equipment to help with Angus around the home. There is also a possibility to give Ann some time to herself by encouraging Angus to visit a day care establishment which would give Angus a social life.

Ann is not the only person in this situation, according to Carers UK on (Carers UK, online 15/10/11) the ageing population is on the increase, many families are struggling with little or no help at all. Carers are facing cuts to benefits which they are sometimes dependent on. There are 6.

4 million people in the UK are caring for their loved ones which otherwise cost the Government an average of ? 119 billion a year. REFERENCESwww. carers. org/what-carer. www. carersuk.

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