

**CONTACT:****Linda Campbell, PhD, RN, CNS, CNE****Dean and Professor, Department of Nursing****Email Address: [lscampbell@warnerpacific.edu](mailto:lscampbell@warnerpacific.edu)****NURS 210 Interprofessionalism  
EOLC Conference Script****Case #1:** Mr. Jones...**People Involved in the Conference**

- **Patient:** Connell Jones
- **Son:** Reggie Jones
- **Reverend/Chaplain:** Leslie Martell
- **Physician:** Dr. Christine Costanza
- **Social Worker:** Seth Cohen
- **Nurse:** Sam Raven (pseudonym)

**Script**

**\*\*\*Conference is held at Reggie's house, in the dining room, right outside of where Connell is resting\*\*\***

Dr. Christine Costanza: First off, I want to thank everyone for coming to this meeting today. This type of meeting is always hard and so I really appreciate seeing a room full of compassion and courage. To start off, I want us to introduce ourselves. My name is Christine Costanza. You can call me Chris, though.

Leslie Martell: Thank you, Chris. My name is Leslie Martell, and I'm a pastor serving as an on-call chaplain. Leslie is fine. I also want to thank everyone for coming. I am happy to be here during these hard times and hope to help in any way possible.

Reggie Jones: Thank you, Chris and Leslie. My name is Reggie, I am the son of Mr. Jones. I just want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for being here today.

Seth Cohen: We are happy to be here, and we want to let you know that you can call on us at any time over the course of this conference and beyond. Oh and my name is Seth Cohen and I am the Social Worker.

Sam Raven: And my name is Sam Raven. I am the nurse who has been caring for Mr. Jones over the course of his treatment. Hello, Reggie. Nice to see you again and I want to let you know that we are all here for you and your father.

Christine: Thank you for introducing yourselves and for the kind words. Reggie, we are here to help during this incredibly hard time. End of Life Care and decision making are never easy. As we all know, Connell has been suffering from terminal cancer. Over the past couple of months, he has taken a turn for the worse. Connell has been bed ridden and unable to coherently inform us of his condition and thus we are meeting about an End of Life decision. We, the care team, have been made aware that Connell has an advanced directive, which places you, Reggie, in charge of this portion of your father's life.

Reggie: That is correct, I am the medical proxy and I never thought I would be here, making a decision on whether to let my father pass. I am incredibly sad and depressed to be meeting with you all today; I

**CONTACT:****Linda Campbell, PhD, RN, CNS, CNE****Dean and Professor, Department of Nursing****Email Address: [lscampbell@warnerpacific.edu](mailto:lscampbell@warnerpacific.edu)**

didn't want to come, as avoiding these moments makes it a bit easier. As you may know, my father has been battling this lung cancer for years now; in and out of remission. We thought he was in the clear, but he always knew this would be the way he goes. He seems to be at peace, and it is no surprise to me that he wants to leave modern medicine out of these final moments.

Seth: Yes, I spoke with your father quite a bit when he was at the hospital and helped him find a lawyer to talk to about setting up his will and advance directive. He made it abundantly clear that he did not want to prolong the inevitable when the time came.

Reggie: Yeah, he would talk about that a lot ever since he left the hospital. As he fell deeper and deeper into the abyss, he was ready to take matters into his own hands. Did he ever mention that to any of you? The desire to go quickly and quietly?

Sam: You mean, assisted death?

Reggie: Yes.

Leslie: Reggie, your father did mention that to me and others in this circle when he was at the hospital. Being in Oregon, he does have that option and although I am a woman of faith and I have feelings about that matter, it is up to you to make your father's wish a reality.

Reggie: Yeah, I am really struggling with the idea of helping my father die. It's one thing to have cancer kill him, it's another having me sign off on assisted death.

Sam: I have worked with Christine for years and I can assure you your father is in good hands, no matter what decision you make. There are a couple of options: one being a slow, but painless death or one that is a bit quicker and still painless. I want to assure you that we have the means to make the last moments of your father's life as painless as possible. He will not be on a ventilator, but he will be medicated and will not be struggling.

Christine: Sam is correct. No matter the choice you make, Connell will not be in pain.

Reggie: I understand that. There is some gray area within his directive and that is what is making this so much harder.

Chris: This decision is never easy, but we are here for you no matter what. I do want you to know that your father's health is quickly declining. Sam has reported to me that his lungs are quickly filling up with fluid and that he is showing signs of severe infection all over his body. We are treating your father with morphine to reduce the pain, but there is not much more we can do to fight the infections. With cancer, it is typically the infections that kill our patients and your father is no different. Before you know it, he will enter a state of shock and he will pass. We can make that as peaceful as possible.

Seth: Reggie, I know this is hard, but what do you chose to do in terms of letting him go naturally or with assistance?

Reggie: I spoke with my father once about that matter, and I just do not have the power to make that call. If he had been explicit in his orders to let you guys assist in his death, then I couldn't argue with that, but he didn't. So if your team can help make his last moments as peaceful as possible, I would appreciate it.

**CONTACT:****Linda Campbell, PhD, RN, CNS, CNE****Dean and Professor, Department of Nursing****Email Address: [lscampbell@warnerpacific.edu](mailto:lscampbell@warnerpacific.edu)**

Leslie: Reggie, your father is in the hands of some of the best people I have met. (Agreed, Sam the Nurse!) I want you to know that we all appreciate your ability to make decisions in a situation like this.

Chris: Yes, Reggie you are being so strong and courageous. Sam and I will do everything within our power to keep your dad in a comfortable state over the next couple of days. I don't anticipate him lasting much longer. With the end of life decision being made, I want to thank you for your time and your strength. I need to head out as I have more patients to see, but I am with your family every step of the way.

**\*\*\*Chris is departing to see other patients\*\*\***

Reggie: Thank you, Chris. You have been wonderful, and my family wants to thank you for everything! I do have a question for you, Seth.

Seth: Of course, how can I help Reggie?

Reggie: I have spoken to the funeral home and we will be cremating my father per his wishes. But how does all of that happen once he goes? Do we have time to be by his side or is it all so immediate?

Seth: First off, you and your family can have as much time as needed to be by your father's side. There is no rush. Secondly, I have been in touch with the funeral home as well and will help arrange the death certificate. Once Connell passes, I will help you get everything squared away.

Sam: Reggie, I will also be there for you and your family. We do not want your family to be bogged down with all the logistics of this sad situation, so I will coordinate with the hospital on how we can get all the medical supplies out of your spare room. There is an organization called Project CURE that accepts surplus medical supplies and redistributes them globally to vetted areas of need.

Reggie: Thank you guys so much! I mean, I don't know where we would be without all of you.

Leslie: Reggie, your father has been an amazing man to care for. He has been so cheerful and exuberant even with the illness he has faced. We are all so lucky to have met Connell. I know your father was a man of faith, did you say how he wanted the church to be involved?

Reggie: He has talked about that a lot, and he wanted to have a small service at All Saints Parish, his Parish. We were then going to spread his ashes at Manzanita beach; we have a vacation home there. It's all pretty simple, just how my father would like it.

Leslie: That is wonderful. I know the pastor at All Saints, your family is in great hands.

Sam: Reggie, is there anything else you would like to discuss today?

Reggie: No, I think we have covered it all. It was so hard to make that decision, but you were all so supportive and gave me all the information I needed to make the right decision. My father is in good hands and I know he will pass peacefully. Thank you all so much! We consider you all part of our family.

Seth: I feel like I speak for the whole team when I say that we feel the same way. We will always remember Connell and your family.



**CONTACT:**

**Linda Campbell, PhD, RN, CNS, CNE**

**Dean and Professor, Department of Nursing**

**Email Address: [lscampbell@warnerpacific.edu](mailto:lscampbell@warnerpacific.edu)**

Sam: OK, Reggie. Over the next few days we will monitor Connell's health and we will be by his side every step of the way. We will reconvene and take care of the proceedings once that moment arises. Thank you for your time. We will speak again soon.