

22. REPORT BY DR. MARCO

I have been the family physician since Jane was a teenager. She has always been a bright, outgoing person. Her kidney problem was diagnosed three years ago. The only way to treat this condition is through medication. Prior to Jane's diagnosis, she was a consistent, caring parent and very responsible with her children's medical care.

I do not know Joe as well but he seems to be a caring father and good provider and Jane and the children have always spoken highly of him.

I know his job often takes him away from home and this is a stress for the family.

The situation has really changed over the past two years because of Jane's increased pain and dependency on pain medication. It has become clear to me that Jane is addicted to the medication and is somehow supplementing what I prescribe with illegally acquired drugs. Fortunately, she hasn't come into contact with the law but I do worry about this.

Joe has called me recently and expressed that he is upset and frustrated with what is happening, and angry that his vision of family life has collapsed since Jane became ill and her subsequent drug dependency. Jane has expressed her distress that her children are not at home with her.

I have tried to help Jane find services to deal with her addiction but she hasn't wanted to attend these programs because Jane feels that she doesn't fit with the 'typical drug addict'. Jane may find it useful to try alternative therapies like massage therapy, relaxation techniques or aroma therapy. I know she is skeptical of such approaches and worries that the family doesn't have the finances to pay for such treatments as Joe has only limited benefits.

I have brought a number of brochures about services that are available like a kidney support group, The Pain Management Centre, the Holistic Health Haven, the NA group, and the Talk Therapy centre.

I wish you as a family all the best in your meeting today.