

## MONICA MORGAN CASE STUDY

MONICA MORGAN is an 82-year-old African American mother of six children and grandmother of eight children. She moved recently to Brooklyn, New York, to live with her daughter and son-in law because of health difficulties. She has had a longstanding history of high blood pressure and other physical complications associated with the normal aging process. Mrs. Morgan resents that her children made her leave her home in Alabama. Prior to the move, Mrs. Morgan was spending long hours in bed and her children could not tell what was causing this noteworthy change in her behavior. They sent an older friend of the family to visit and to determine what was causing her to stay in bed. The 80-year-old friend of the family reported that the mother was just feeling sorry for herself. Because the problem continued, Mrs. Morgan's oldest son traveled from Atlanta to visit her and when he arrived she was able to get out of bed, but passed out shortly after they had lunch. She was rushed to the hospital and the doctors determined that she was bleeding in her stomach and had been doing so for quite some time. She probably would have died in bed during the night if she had not passed out and gone to the hospital. The doctor thinks that Mrs. Morgan was not taking one of her medications correctly and it caused her stomach to start bleeding. After the emergency hospitalization, Mrs. Morgan's oldest daughter insisted that she come and live with her because she was not able to properly manage her medications. While the daughter thought her mother would be grateful for this action, the mother had an opposite reaction. Mrs. Morgan became very oppositional shortly after moving to Brooklyn and began to verbally attack her daughter and son-in-law for moving her out of her home. Mrs. Morgan questions her daughter's motives because her daughter and son-in-law both work and she is left alone in their home. Mrs. Morgan believes that she could have stayed in her own home in Alabama because she is equally at risk in Brooklyn while her daughter is at work. The daughter has presented at a social service agency seeking assistance because her mother is constantly angry and is not open to making any efforts at adjusting to life in Brooklyn. She complains about the food, does not eat much, and refuses attempts to link with services for seniors and other available social support activities in the community. The mother is also refusing to do some care duties that she was previously able to do, such as making breakfast and doing minor personal daily living activities. Which statement offers the best understanding of Mrs. Morgan's situation? Explain your choice.

- A. Mrs. Morgan is clinically depressed.
- B. Mrs. Morgan is experiencing internal conflicts because of her loss of control over her life, which is triggering significant frustration and aggression.
- C. The mother's move to the daughter's home has resulted in multiple forms of role loss, which is threatening previously learned definitions of self and of self-efficacy.
- D. Mrs. Morgan has migrated to a new community with strange expectations and demands that are not supportive of her previous life experiences.
- E. Mrs. Morgan's daughter implemented a plan for her mother's safety that was inappropriate because it failed to respect the mother's individual strengths.