

## Case study two: Sarah Brown

Sarah Brown is 60 years of age and has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. She talks to her social worker Fran about how the diagnosis is affecting her emotionally and about her end of life plans. Sarah doesn't feel comfortable talking to her daughter, Annie, about this as they both get very upset. Fran asks Sarah if it would be helpful to talk through some of the things she might want to plan for that would be especially difficult to discuss with her family, for example about planning her funeral. Sarah thinks this would be upsetting but also a relief. As part of the discussion Sarah tells Fran that when her time comes she would particularly like her coffin to be made from wicker.

Two months later Fran receives a phone call from Annie to say that Sarah has passed away. Annie is very upset as she had been unable to talk to Sarah about what she might have wanted her funeral to be like. Fran is able to talk to Annie about what Sarah had told her. Fran attended her funeral and felt very moved when she saw the wicker coffin.