

Gloria – DHR – Summary, Key Issues and Recommendations

This Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) examines the circumstances surrounding the death of Gloria, a 75-year-old woman killed by her husband Marcus (81) in December 2022 in South Cambridgeshire. The couple had been married for 11 years and were described as having a loving relationship. Gloria suffered from Parkinson's disease and declining health, leading to hospital admission and discharge with full care needs. Marcus later confessed to suffocating Gloria after she allegedly begged him to end her life. He was convicted of manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility and received a suspended sentence.

Key Issues

- No prior indicators of domestic abuse: Gloria and Marcus were perceived as happy; professionals and family saw no signs of abuse.
- Mental health and carer stress: Marcus had a history of depression and appeared to struggle with caring responsibilities, but no formal carer's assessment was offered.
- Gloria's suicidal ideation: Assessed as low risk; professionals planned antidepressant treatment but did not escalate concerns when her health declined.
- Communication gaps: A letter to the GP suggesting urgent review was not acted upon promptly due to holiday staffing.
- Missed opportunities: Lack of structured support for Marcus as a carer and absence of proactive discussion about assisted dying requests.
- Record-keeping and coordination: Inconsistent documentation by home care providers and limited holistic consideration of third-party information.

Recommendations

- Routine Domestic Abuse Enquiry: Embed and record routine enquiry across all partner agencies, supported by updated policies and EPR systems.
- Carer Support: Ensure carers are signposted to assessments and support services; embed carer policy within hospital and community settings.
- Information Handling: GP practices to review processes for urgent third-party information and train administrative staff to escalate concerns.
- Improved Record-Keeping: Home care providers to maintain clear, timely audit trails of discussions and care delivery.
- Think Family Approach: Professionals to assess impact of significant life changes on patients and carers, and record discussions.

Link to full review: [Community Safety Partnership](#)