

Elder Law
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Hypothetical #1

You have an appointment with Gordon and Anne. You have reviewed the Legal Planning Form they submitted and know this about the family: They are 65 and 63 respectively. Their oldest son Jim lives with them; he never married and has no children. Their two other children, Norma and Jerry, live in affluent parts of town and are married each with four children. You suspect that the form was filled out by Norma as all contact with the family and your law firm has been with Norma. She wants you to send the bill to her because her parents think your hourly rates are too high.

According to the form, Gordon and Anne have a home and saved about \$200,000. They each receive Social Security benefits, are on Medicare and have a Medicare Supplemental policy. They are worried because Gordon is becoming extremely forgetful and frail (doctors are stymied as to the diagnosis). They are worried about how they will pay for nursing home care and/or pay for help at home.

You go to the waiting room and there sit Gordon, Anne, Jim, Norma, Jerry, and two grandchildren.

What ethical problems does this scenario suggest? What are your options?