Module 2 – Case Study

The Substitute Decision Maker

Mrs. Alice Brown is a 74-year-old widowed woman living with Alzheimer's disease. In the last few years, Mrs. Brown's dementia has continued to worsen progressively. She was no longer able to care for herself and relied on the help of her neighbour. Six months ago, Mrs. Brown was admitted to your Long-Term Care Home.

Before the admission, her neighbour and long-time friend Betty was helping her every day. Mrs. Brown's family consists of her only sister Karen who lives in Florida. Mrs. Brown also has two nephews (Karen's sons). Tim lives in the same town and visits regularly. Brian lives in Nova Scotia.

Mrs. Brown is having increased difficulty swallowing her medications safely and staff are reporting her intake has decreased significantly since admission. The team has reviewed her current medications and are recommending discontinuing a number of them.

1. **Who do you speak to first?**

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2. **Prioritize the Substitute Decision Makers list and explain your rationale:**

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