

## Case Narrative

You are close friends with Jim and Susan Moore. Your two year old daughter goes to the same day care as Robyn, Jim and Susan's 2 year old son. When Robyn suddenly stopped going to daycare you stop by to see if everything was ok.

Everything is not ok. Susan asks you to come in. You sit with her and she tells you her story. After eating a few days ago Robyn had started to cry. Then later he began to vomit and scream. Since then he has become listless, feverish, refusing food. "What do the doctors say" you ask. And Susan says, "we are Christian Scientists and don't believe in doctors. We have had someone from the church here to pray with us and to look after Robyn as best we can." You are surprised and a little alarmed by this.

Susan continues, "I am afraid for Robyn, but we really do believe God can heal him and we also believe that we can make things worse if we don't keep our faith." "But Robyn might die, Susan..." "I know... I know... But that is God's business, not ours. I don't want to lose him, but we will see him again if God does takes him."

## Questions

1. What would you do in a situation like this?
2. Assuming you do not share Susan's religious beliefs, what arguments would you use to persuade Susan that she should take Robyn to the doctor?
3. Would you do anything further if Susan did not take Robyn to the doctor?
4. Change the scenario. Robyn is 13 years old. Assume he has been raised Christian Scientist and, while very sick and very frightened, agrees with his parents about his faith.
5. Given Jim and Susan's religious beliefs... are they doing the morally right thing by withholding treatment of their son?
6. If Robyn were to die, should Jim and Susan be prosecuted for a crime? If so, what crime might that be?