**MS PSYC 8728/COUN 8728
Substance Abuse Counseling**

**Case Study**

**Jack**

Jack is a 64-year-old heterosexual-identified Euro-American male who comes to your agency at the insistence of his wife, Betty. According to Jack, "Betty won’t quit yelling at me to quit my drinking. The way I see it, I have earned my right to drink!"

Jack is wheelchair-bound because his legs were amputated above the knees. You learn that he lost his legs when he stepped on a land mine in Vietnam in 1971, as a soldier in the Vietnam War. According to Jack, “You know what I got for a homecoming? Everyone talking about that ‘unjust war.' ‘Unjust!’ You know what’s unjust? I was drafted!”

Following his return from Vietnam, Jack began drinking heavily. As he explains it, “It’s true, I am mad as a wet cat—and if a nice single malt scotch helps me make it through the day, then Betty has to deal with it! I lost my legs in ’Nam—she didn’t!”

You learn in your work that Jack has recently shown signs of liver problems, and that his doctor insists he stop drinking. Jack’s refusal to do so appears to be why Betty insists he seek counseling.