

Elmer donated a pint of blood that his wife Doris needed during an operation. Elmer and Doris were subsequently divorced. Years after the divorce Elmer was in an accident and needed one pint of blood. His new wife, Cora, was of a different blood type, and thus could not contribute blood to Elmer.

Was Doris morally obligated to donate a pint of blood for Elmer? Yes?, No?, or "It depends". If "it depends" then what does it depend upon?

ANSWER: It depends upon the extent to which Elmer and Doris are still friends, and the nature of their friendship. It does not depend upon merely the fact that Elmer contributed blood for Doris at an earlier time. When Elmer donated blood for Doris he did so out of love for her that no longer exists either on his part or Doris'. Thus if Doris has a duty to donate blood it depends upon the nature of her current relationship with Elmer. If they are not friends she has no greater obligation in this circumstance than she would have with respect to any other individual who needs a pint of blood.

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