



THE FAMILY DISPUTE

ADULT DISPUTE - ADVANCED

SCENARIO

- Angela and Thomas are the adult children of Rose.
- Rose is living with mid-stage dementia.
- Thomas lives 10 minutes drive away from Rose and has been looking after her almost every day for the past two years whilst also working as a medical receptionist at the local medical center.
- Angela lives in Sydney where she works full time as a financial analyst.
- She visits Rose and Thomas once or twice a year.
- Lately Rose has been getting more forgetful and has wandered from the house twice this month and got lost.
- Thomas is very worried about Rose and wants her to move to a full-time care facility for her own safety and well-being.
- Angela adamantly feels that Rose should stay at home as she is convinced that is what Rose would want.
- Thomas and Angela have been arguing over the phone about this for weeks and have now agreed to try and find a solution through mediation.

THOMAS' INFORMATION

WHAT HAPPENED?



- I have been looking after our mother, Rose, for the last two years.
- I am struggling with working at my job as well as caring for Rose.
- It is not that I resent the work but it has been very hard on me, especially emotionally.
- I have always been very close to my mother and lately she often does not recognise me.
- She has been getting increasingly confused and anxious and I'm not sure how to handle it.
- The last time she got lost, it was a cold evening and I often worry as to what may have happened if the neighbour had not found her.
- I need help. I have found an excellent care facility with the loveliest staff and an absolutely stunning garden that I am convinced my mother would adore.
- I have mentioned this to my sister but I feel that she is not listening to me.
- She is my older sister and always thinks she knows best. But she is not living here in NZ. She is not the one looking after Rose.
- My sister has no idea how much work is involved or how poorly Rose has actually gotten recently.

ROSE'S INFORMATION

WHAT HAPPENED?



- I think Rose should keep her independence for as long as possible.
- I once visited my aunt in a care facility and I thought it was a dreadful place. I can't stomach the idea of Rose going to such a place.
- The last few times I spoke to Rose over the phone, I think she sounded the same as usual.
- I don't understand what the big problem is. Thomas is only working part time so what is the issue?
- If he needs help, can't he just arrange for someone to come and help him out?
- If it is money that is needed, I am more than happy to pay for it.
- He really should listen to me. I know Rose. I know what she would want.