

Ms R's Story



South Ayrshire
Adult Protection
Committee

I have been living on my own ever since my husband died in 2008, I am 83 and they tell me I'm quite frail. I have two sons, the eldest, M, is my primary care giver and a business-man, and S, a teacher who lives down south with his wife and children. S calls me every day to see how I am, due to his location he cannot visit me as often as he would like. M doesn't come and visit me much, and when he does he is very impatient with me, calling me stupid, laughing at me for not being able get to bathroom quick enough, then becoming very reluctant to help me change when I do not get there on time.

M told me that because of his job being long hours, he may not be able to visit me as often, so to keep me from doing anything "stupid" or "embarrassing" he took away my keys so I couldn't leave the house on my own, and took my mobile phone so I couldn't "bother anyone with my nonsense." I felt so helpless! I was worried S would find out and get M into trouble, I didn't want them to argue, I love both of my boys very much and I never wanted to be a burden. Luckily, only a day had passed when I heard the door open, thinking it was M I was relieved that he had changed his mind about keeping me inside all the while. But it was S! S had driven 200 miles to come and make sure I was alright, as I wasn't answering his calls and M was ignoring him too. He told me how worried he was about me, and when I told S what had happened he got ever so angry. I told him I didn't want anything to happen to M, as he was just overwhelmed with trying to provide for my care needs as well as working a full-time job. S agreed that he would not get the police involved, he said; "You cannot carry on like this mother, if M is unable to give you the care that you need then we must get Social Work Services involved to see if a care plan can be put in place instead." I couldn't help but agree.

I was surprised when social work staff visited us that afternoon. They were kind to me, and respectful of my wishes of not getting M into trouble. They listened to my needs and wants, and didn't boss me around. They arranged for trained care workers to visit me twice a day, and to review my progress in a few months to see how I'm coping. S is much happier and visits me once a fortnight now and even M is a lot more relaxed and pleasant to me, now the pressure is off of him."

I am content with my life and feel more relaxed.