

Your Legal Questions

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Q My Mum is finding it difficult to manage and has asked if she can come and live with us. She plans to sell her house and pay for our house to be extended. I have two sisters and I'm worried that there may be problems when Mum dies – what should I do?

A The most fundamental issue is whether this arrangement is workable - both you and your Mum will be compromising your independence and I would recommend that you have a trial period when you all live together – this is especially important if you have a partner and children.

I assume that you are satisfied in principle that appropriate permissions for the extension will be forthcoming. That being the case it is of prime importance that you and your Mum receive legal advice to achieve your aims and safeguard your respective interests. Personally I would recommend that you are both independently advised – i.e. go to different firms of solicitors.

You are right to be concerned that problems could arise with your sisters in the future when your Mum passes away. It is for this very reason that I recommend you and your Mum taking separate advice – this gives each of you the opportunity to express such concerns and explore how they best be overcome or addressed.

The advice that you will receive will include issues that you may not have even considered. For example what if you were to die before your Mum, split from your partner, have to move from the area for whatever reason or if your Mum's health necessitated her move to a nursing home.

I would not wish to deter you or your Mum as I am aware of many arrangements of this type that work perfectly - usually as a result of careful planning and legal advice. If in doubt consult a solicitor.

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