

Your Legal Questions

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Solicitor



Q: Social services want to put my wife in a nursing home. I think she is better off at home, is there anything that I can do?

A: The social worker who has been assessing your wife must have reached the conclusion that your wife's care needs can no longer be met at home. I do realise that in certain circumstances the involvement of social services can be very distressing indeed but please be aware that they do have a duty of care for vulnerable adults. Your wife's social worker will be of the opinion that it will be in your wife's best interests to move to a care home where her care needs can be met, it is a case of weighing up the safety of your wife and the safety of others.

I would firstly suggest that you arrange a meeting with the social worker to find out what exactly it is that they are concerned about. Explain that you would like to care for your wife at home and make suggestions regarding how you would manage. For example you could suggest that you will arrange for paid carers to visit a number of times a day to help with washing and dressing. Social services must act in your wife's best interests and you will need to set out how it would be in your wife's best interests to stay at home.

If no agreement can be reached there is a chance, in extreme cases, that the social services may take steps to have your wife "sectioned" and in that case you could request an assessment under the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards procedure. If matters progress to this stage I do suggest that you instruct a Solicitor to assist you.

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