**Mediator Information**

**Gained from Pre-Mediation Meetings**

**Alex and Julie are siblings with elderly parents.**

Both parents live in a purpose built extension that is attached Alex’s house. Alex & their partner provide primary care, together with a home help person who comes in each day.

The siblings’ 87 year mother has fallen and broken her hip and is currently in a nursing home. The family has been told that she may not walk again and Alex is adamant that she will have to remain there.

Julie is extremely annoyed because she was not consulted and the whole reason for the parents moving to the new house with a special extension was so that they could remain at home. This has also used up a large portion of Julie’s inheritance – but this was fine once the care was provided for the parents. Julie works and lives in Cork and does as much as she can with phone calls and visiting home a few times each month.

The relationship between the siblings is very strained and they are finding it almost impossible to communicate with one another.

Alex’s partner recommended mediation and both have agreed.

**Disputant A Information – Alex**

You live with your partner & three children in a lovely, large house in Co Kildare. Originally you had a small house in Co Wicklow, but decided to pool funds with your elderly parents who were selling their house, and you all moved to this beautiful spot 8 years ago. There’s a half an acre of land where the dogs can roam and you grow flowers, vegetables and herbs. You don’t work outside the home and have a very nice lifestyle.

The reason for buying this house was that a large extension could be built for your parents that connected to the main house. This meant that they could be independent, but still have help close at hand should anything happen. You have one sibling, Julie, and she also agreed to the pooling of monies. Well, why wouldn’t she when you are doing all the caretaking and have all the responsibility? (Well you and the home help.) Julie works and lives in Cork and maybe comes to visit once or twice a month.

Your 87 year old mother is now in a nursing home after having fallen and broken her hip. It is not known if she’ll be able to walk again. This has serious implications for her future and it could mean she has to stay in the nursing home for the remainder of her life. You cannot look after her at home if she is unable to get about by herself. You have done enough at this stage, and your mother will be even more difficult now. Plus, you have your own life to live.

You told Julie that once the prognosis is final, you will make a decision. But you have already decided. Julie was furious with you saying you had no right to make that decision on your own. There was a nasty row and it finished with you slamming down the phone saying that if Julie was so concerned, she could look after parents. You have not been able to talk to one another without it erupting into a shouting match.

You have agreed to attend mediation, following the suggestion of your partner.

***Note to Disputants:***

*Ensure that you are eventually reasonable, although angry & upset at first, and respond to the mediator’s skills.*

**Disputant B Information – Julie**

You work in IT for a busy company based in Cork. You are single with no children. Both your parents are elderly and you get home to visit roughly 2 weekends a month. Your parents live with your sibling, Alex, their partner and children in Co Kildare.

A number of years ago Alex wanted to move to a larger house but didn’t have enough money. At that point both your parents were getting on in age and it was agreed that your parents would sell their large house in Greystones and put a significant amount of the sale money into a new house, together with the proceeds of Alex smaller house.

While this was part of your inheritance, you agreed as a special extension would be built on the new property for your parents so that they could live independently but have family close by.

Things have taken a turn for a worse after your 87 year old mother fell and broke her hip. Currently she is in a nursing home and it is not known if she will be able to walk again. Alex wants her to stay permanently in the nursing home if she is unable to walk. You are most unhappy about this. That was the whole point of the pooling of monies – so that your parents could be taken care of at home.

The relationship between you & Alex has turned unpleasant. You cannot communicate without getting into an argument and now Alex is being a real smart-aleck saying if you’re so worried about mother, you can take care of both the parents.

You have agreed to attend mediation following the suggestion by Alex’s partner.

***Note to Disputants:***

*Ensure that you are eventually reasonable, although angry and upset at first, and respond to the mediator’s skills.*