

## BETH CARLTON (PARTY B) INSTRUCTIONS

Role Play:	Donald Knows Best	
Party A:	Donald Middleton	(57 yo)
Party B:	Beth Carlton	(65 yo)
Process:	Preparation to Closing	

### Background

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Donald and Beth are siblings. They have been sharing some of the care of their elderly father Gareth since their mother died 5 years ago. They have come to mediation as they are in dispute over whether their father needs to be put into an aged care facility, and if so, who will pay for it. Beth would prefer to build a granny flat at her home for Gareth.

### Common Understandings

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- Dad is still living in his own home. Beth has been dad's main carer since mum died.
- Both of you are concerned that dad is no longer able to look after himself.
- Mum made you promise not to put dad in a home.

## Script for Beth – Opening Statement

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What would mum say if she was here now, it would break her heart to know that we are fighting and that you aren't looking after dad. She would be so disappointed in you.

Dad doesn't remember to clean up. But I guess the main worry is that he does not remember to clean himself. He's starting to get infections and the like. Apparently, he burned himself on the stove and nobody knew about it for days – poor bugger, he didn't even realise he burnt himself.

I haven't been able to get out to dad's a lot lately. But I've had some of those home help people going in and feeding him, services like Meals on Wheels and another carer – they should've been looking after him.

I've been dad's main carer since mum died, I've always had him over for Sunday lunch – just like mum used to cook a roast every Sunday. Before the grandkids I was in touch with him every day. Can't say the same for Donald – dad was lucky to get a call off him once a month.

Donald keeps saying I am manipulating dad to sell his unit – dad wants to come with me – he doesn't want to go with you Donald – what do you think that says about how neglected dad feels from you.

It was all so simple before Donald stuck his nose in – we were going to sell up and dad would move in with us while we renovate the house – he was so happy, but now because of Donald everything has stopped, and dad has gone downhill again.

## Beth's Narrative

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### *Exploration*

- You need the money from the unit to build a granny flat at the back of the house for your dad – it will be connected to the house, but it will give your dad some privacy from the noise from the grandkids – he doesn't tolerate noise too much these days.
- The unit will have a disabled toilet and bathroom and furnished with new things suitable for the aged – mobility devices etc – these things aren't cheap – but you guess Donald wouldn't know because he's never been too interested in what dad's up to – too busy making his fortune.
- You bought a new 7-seater car – you needed it as the sedan was becoming too small to drive around in with the grandkids and your dad – you bought the bigger car so that everyone would fit.
- You are concerned Donald will always put his work first, even in an emergency. If your dad goes into a home, you don't think Donald will visit any more often.

### *Option Generation*

- A flat is built on your property for dad to live in.
- For Donald to take more responsibility and be more involved.

### *Private Session*

- You are worried that you may be taking on too much of a responsibility and you need to get carers in...you can't afford it from your family income and was hoping to use the balance of the sale of the house to pay for carers if needed – you don't know how Donald will react – (get the mediators to help you).
- You need to get the unit sold ASAP so that the builders can start as winter is coming soon and you are worried if there is another rainy season it will delay your dad moving in soon.

### *Negotiation*

- Put to Donald that you want to build a flat at your home for dad – the left-over money from the sale of his house can be put aside for any care services he needs and if he eventually needs high care help.
- If Donald agrees to the sale of dad's house and the building of the flat at your place, discuss possible home help services you might need to set up for your dad – e.g. meals on wheels for some days of the week. Maybe Donald could prepare a meal a week?
- Donald raised power of attorney in exploration. You're the one who has spent most time with dad since mum died. Insist on joint power of attorney.

### *Outcome Statement*

- Ask the mediator to include any unresolved issues in the outcome statement.

