

# Age Action

## Case Studies

### Examples of financial elder abuse

EMBARGO

00.01 15 June 2015

#### Case Study 1 – Losing her home

**Gráinne** is in her late 70s. Her son, Robert, moved in following the break-up of his marriage. As time went on Robert became very aggressive towards his mother and then moved his own older son into the house.

Gráinne said her son and grandson contributed very little and she found things very difficult, especially when they began drinking.

Although she did ask for money towards the bills, she stopped doing so as it would lead to arguments, including physical threats. She was reluctant to report things to the Gardaí, as it concerned her family.

Robert began a relationship and moved in his new partner. Eventually Gráinne chose to leave and go to stay with her brother in Britain.

Months later, when she returned to Ireland and tried to move back into her home, she was refused entry. At the time she contacted us, Gráinne was living in sheltered housing.

#### Case Study 2 – Demanding money

**Paul** contacted us by phone on behalf of his 80-year-old father who lives alone. His father, accompanied by Paul's sister Ann, withdrew money from the bank on a number of occasions and handed it over to Ann.

His father told Paul that Ann had shouted at him and threatened to put him in a nursing home if he did not give her money.

#### Case Study 3 – Credit Card Fraud

**Sineád** has been diagnosed with dementia. During a period when she was experiencing reduced mental capacity, her son persuaded her to set up a joint bank account.

Her son then used this account to obtain a credit card and made a number of purchases on the card for which Sineád was charged.

Afterwards, during a more lucid period, Sineád realised what had happened. With the help of her daughter, she approached her bank which recognised it as fraud and reimbursed her.

## Case Study 4 – Stolen Property

**Catherine's** 85-year-old mother was recently hospitalised for an operation. While in hospital, she allowed Catherine's brother, Noel, to use her car. After the operation, her mother made a full recovery and returned home.

However, Noel refused to return the car and was verbally abusive to his mother. As of last month, he had still not returned the car.

### **Note to editors**

Some of the personal details of the individuals involved in these cases have been changed to protect their anonymity but no changes have been made to the specifics of the case.

All of these cases were reported to Age Action's Information Line.

Age Action's work on elder financial abuse is funded by the Ulster Bank Community Impact Fund.

**ENDS**