Peter Smith Case study 6

Peter Patel is 81 years old and was being cared for in his own home by his eldest son Karim 41 who has Lasting Power of Attorney and manages his father’s finance.

Peter Patel is a Widow and has three children, but there has been some friction between the siblings. The two sisters live in USA, but they telephone their father weekly.

Until recently, Mr Patel was able to mobilise with a tripod and Karim built an extension to his home to facilitate a bedroom, and wet room for him.

However, last week, Karim returned from work to find his father on the wet room floor, unable to get up. He had lain there for most of the day. Karim called an ambulance and Mr Patel was diagnosed as having had a Stroke. Karim was distraught and to make matters worse, his two sisters scolded him for leaving their father alone for extended periods of time, despite Karim saying that he needed to earn money to live.

The Consultant advised Karim to seek a residential home for his father, but Karim was not interested. He was adamant that he wants to look after his father himself. He stated that a residential home cannot meet his father’s cultural and religious needs and is concerned that his father would need to sell his house to pay for it. In reality Karim does not know how he is going to manage as the home environment may need changing again. Mr Patel remans in hospital at present, but plans need to be made for his discharge.