

Text Transcript of Keep Control's video: 'Making a Will'

[Mrs O'Donovan and her son are at home]

Mrs O'Donovan: Did I tell you I saw Lilly today?

Son: Oh yeah, how is she?

Mrs O'Donovan: Not in good form. Her brother died last month. He didn't leave a Will or anything and now there's a heap of trouble over the land. That's something I should get sorted soon.

Son: Yeah? Sure, I've to see my solicitor one of these days anyway. Why don't you come with me and sort out your Will then?

Mrs O'Donovan: I have two options here. I can accept my son's offer to bring me to his solicitor. Or I can reject his offer and seek independent legal advice

Option 1 - Accept his offer and get advice from his solicitor

[Mother and son are in son's solicitors office]

Son: Now you know what to say when you go in there don't you? Just remember what we spoke about in the car on the over

Mrs O'Donovan: Yes I think so

Son: There's no need for you to be worrying about anything. It's best if you just keep it simple and tell the solicitor you want to make me the sole beneficiary. Isn't that right?

Mrs O'Donovan: Yes, yes

Son: It just makes things easier for you mam. It means that I can look after everything and you don't need to worry. I'll make sure that everybody gets their fair share when the time comes.

Mrs O'Donovan: Ok

Son: That's what you want isn't it? You want me to look after you don't you?

Mrs O'Donovan: Of course. But are you sure it wouldn't be better for me to speak with my own solicitor? John McCarthy was always very good. He handled things for your father and I when we bought our house

Son: Ah what would you want to be going and doing that for mam? Sure he charges a fortune. We've spoke about this already and we've agreed... it's much easier seeing my solicitor. Sure I was talking to him earlier and he said he can sort things out for us no hassle

Mrs O'Donovan: Ok. I suppose... if you think it's for the best

Son: Of course it's for the best. Sure I wouldn't be bringing you here otherwise

[Son's solicitor enters room]

Son's solicitor: Hello, is this Mrs O'Donovan?

Son: Hi George. Nice to see you again. Yes this is my mother

Son's Solicitor: Now, Mrs O'Donovan I understand that you're here to start the process of making your Will? I was speaking to your son earlier on and he explained everything. So shall we step into my office and we can have a chat?

Option 2 - Reject his offer and get independent legal advice

[Mrs O'Donovan and her son are at home]

Mrs O'Donovan: Ah thanks, but I'll talk to my own solicitor; see what he has to say. I don't have much, but I want to make sure that I don't leave anyone out, you know?

Son: But sure you can come with me next week, it'll be just as handy to sort things out then.

Mrs O'Donovan: Ah no, it's best to go to my own solicitor.

Son: But that one charges a fortune. You're better off coming with me

Mrs O'Donovan: Well I'll get an estimate of costs first. It can't be very different from anywhere else.

Son: Suit yourself

Mrs O'Donovan: You'll be the executor. That's ok isn't it?

Son: Yeah, alright

Mrs O'Donovan: Grand. I'll phone the solicitor now... find out about the costs for a start

[Mrs O'Donovan makes a phone call to her own solicitor]

[Mrs O'Donovan meets her own solicitor at his office]

Mrs O'Donovan: I'd like to make a Will. I've a list here of all my property and my money...

Solicitor John McCarthy: That's great

Mrs O'Donovan: I want to make sure that my three children get their equal share. I'd like to leave some money to charity too.

Solicitor John McCarthy: Well that shouldn't be a problem at all. Today we'll just have a conversation about what you would like included in your Will.

Mrs O'Donovan: Well pretty much everything is there on that list... my property and money

Solicitor John McCarthy: That's great. I always advise my clients not to go into too much specific detail in their Will. Together we will make sure that everything is included and that it is divided out as you wish.

Mrs O'Donovan: That sounds fine, I'm happy with that.

Mrs O'Donovan: It is important to make a Will. It will give you peace of mind that everything will be dealt with according to your wishes after you die. When making a Will never make any decisions under pressure or allow anybody to influence you. Always take the time to think things through and get advice. It is recommended that you get independent legal advice when making a Will, as this will ensure that the document is legally valid. Never seek advice from a solicitor who also represents a potential beneficiary of your Will.