

Antisocial behaviour case study

FAMILY EVICTON

“A few years ago, I dealt with a lady in her mid-sixties who lived with her two adult sons, one of whom had mild learning difficulties.

I received a call from a domestic abuse helpline who told me that she was suffering serious abuse and violence from her eldest son and asked whether there anything we could do as a landlord to help her out of the situation. We agreed that I would call her the following day at a café where she volunteered and although she was unsure at first, she eventually opened up.

She was shaking like a leaf as she told me about the years of abuse she had suffered, first from her husband and then from her son.

Her eldest son had become increasingly abusive and violent towards her and her other son and she told me she wanted her son to leave her home. I knew I could seek an ex-parte injunction – an emergency action - to have him removed. This would be granted because there was every possibility she would be abused again that night.

I explained the steps one-by-one and that we would attend court together in the morning. The injunction was granted without question and once served to him by the police, meant he had to leave the home immediately and could not return nor approach his mum at any time.

The locks were changed that same day and extra bolts installed, and she knew to call the police immediately if her son breached the injunction. As suspected, he did, and he was arrested. However, with threat of a lengthy prison sentence if he breached this again, he hasn't.

It takes time to move on from this but to see the change in her was wonderful. Plus, her relationship with her younger son is now much better and he has expressed an interest in getting into work.”