



**Enhanced Care for Older People
Learning Session Number 20**

A Story of Predatory Marriage

Daphne Franks

Tuesday 18th July 2023

EnCOP Lead: Angela Fraser

Housekeeping

- Please ensure microphones are muted and during presentation cameras are turned off.
- The event will be recorded and shared.
- The webinar recording and presentation will be circulated and uploaded on to the website following the event.
- If you have any questions during the session then please use the chat facility. We will attempt to address questions, if we can't then we will follow up after the event.
- Please also use the chat facility to inform us of any technical issues as this will be monitored closely throughout by one of the EnCOP team.
- Occasionally you may have difficulty seeing or hearing video clips that are played, this will usually be due to your own device or software settings and not something we can influence during the webinar session. Please be assured all content will be shared following the event so you will have an opportunity to view afterwards.
- If you need to take a break at any time throughout the session please feel free to do so.

Session Aim & Linked Competencies

Aim:

Safeguarding older people : Demonstrating lived experience of predatory marriage to raise awareness and increase vigilance of health and care staff

Linked EnCOP Domains:

Domain A: Values, Attitudes and Ethical Practice
Domain B: Evidence Based Care : Supporting learning, leadership and improving care for older people
Domain C1: Partnership working and communication with older people, families and others
Domain C2: Interprofessional and interorganisational working , communication and collaboration
Domain D5: Ageing Well: Promoting and supporting holistic psychological health and wellbeing with older people

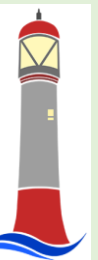


Handover to Daphne..

A Story of Predatory Marriage

Daphne Franks

Joan Blass
April 20 1924 – March 26 2016



A Story of Predatory Marriage

Daphne Franks

www.predatorymarriage.uk

facebook.com/predatorymarriage

Joan died on Easter Saturday, 26 March 2016.

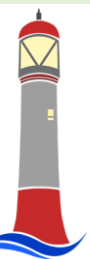
On Easter Tuesday, 29 March 2016, “Ranlyn” arrived at Joan’s GP surgery with a marriage certificate.

He had married her on 26 October, 2015.

The witnesses were his son and a lady from the pub.

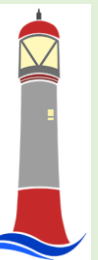
None of Joan’s family or friends was present and none of them knew it was happening.

We set about trying to find out how the marriage could possibly have taken place.

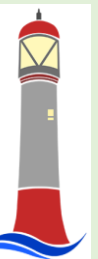


Ron and
Joan, pub
lunch

Ron died in
2008 from
pneumonia
after a virus

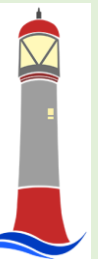


Joan in her eighties
on Caldey Island
near Tenby, South
Wales



Joan, age 89



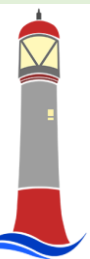


WILLS:

In 2004, both Joan and Ronnie made their Wills.

They were common, straightforward Wills leaving everything – house, money, possessions – to their two children.

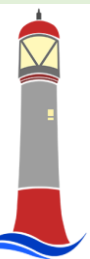
In England and Wales (though not in Scotland) marriage revokes a Will, as though it had never existed.



Power of Attorney

In 2004 Joan had set up Enduring Power of Attorney so Daphne could look after her affairs if she lost mental capacity to do so.

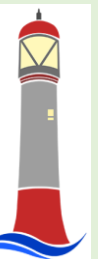
To many people's surprise, Power of Attorney has no link with marriage. There is no requirement to tell the attorney if the donor plans to marry.



This is by the garden gate, where, in November 2011, Joan met “Ranlyn”

She had been diagnosed with vascular dementia earlier that year.

He moved into her house within a few weeks.



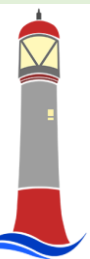
Joan's 90th
Birthday
Party
April 2014





Before Joan's death, we sought help from:

- Joan's GP – they didn't know what to do and suggested we call Social Services
- Social Services – who have no right of entry. “Nothing to worry about, no safeguarding concerns”
- The Police – “People will say you just don't like him”
- The family solicitor – “She won't be able to marry or to make a new Will because of her dementia”



What could we have done?

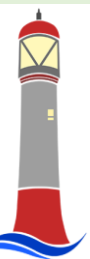
Attended or called the register office and asked for a “caveat in expectation of marriage” which is free

- but nobody told us this

Approached the Court of Protection after the wedding – though whilst Joan was still alive - for a Statutory Will (this is a Will made once someone has lost capacity to make one him/herself) – but:

we didn't know such things existed

we didn't know the marriage had taken place, and Joan already had a Will, so we didn't know to do this. A Statutory Will can be very costly!

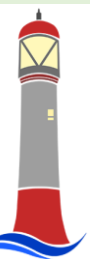


Letter from the Registrars

I proceeded to ask Mrs Blass for the same information. The questions that proved problematic were her age and house number. All other details were given easily. She reminded me jokingly that a lady never gives her age but I replied by saying that on this occasion, she had to. However, by recalling how many years separated herself and her brother, she eventually answered to my satisfaction. In respect of her address, she was able to name the street but could not remember the number of her house. Mr [REDACTED] started to intervene and he was reminded that Mrs Blass had to answer by herself. In view of her memory problem mentioned above, I decided that the street name only would be acceptable.

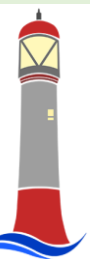
When the couple left the room after this initial interview, the DSR asked me if I thought Mrs Blass was fully aware of why she was there and should we proceed with the ceremony. I replied that, in my opinion based on the interview, how her information had been given and her demeanour, we should go ahead.

What are the warnings (“red flags”) here? What should the registrars have done?



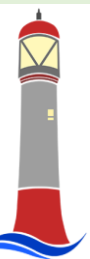
“Ranlyn” has always insisted that Joan did not have dementia, and that nobody in the family had ever mentioned it to him. His real name is blacked out in this excerpt from Joan’s medical records.

30 Sep 2015 15:08	Surgery: Dr Nigel Bew (General Medical Practitioner)
Seasonal influenza vaccination (XaZ0d)	
Ex-smoker (Ub1na) (New Episode)	
Review of dementia advance care plan (XabE1) - with [REDACTED] - short term memory good, walking less well, gets up and down stairs and in bath. Has a wheelchair.	
130 / 85 mmHg	
Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (Split Virion) BP (Sanofi Pasteur MSD) 1 0.5 ml	
Vaccination Consent: INFLUENZA	



The Mental Capacity Act, 2005 – from legislation.gov.uk

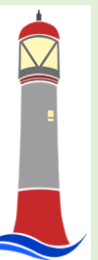
- (1) The following principles apply for the purposes of this Act.
- (2) A person must be assumed to have capacity unless it is established that he lacks capacity.



The pathologist asked for a full forensic post-mortem.

We contacted:

- The Register Office in Leeds – they married in Leeds Town Hall
- The Office of the Public Guardian
- The Local Government Ombudsman
- The Police
- The Forced Marriage Unit
- The General Register Office (national headquarters)
- Finally we went to our MP, Fabian Hamilton

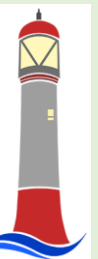


The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Consent) Bill

Fabian Hamilton MP

November 21, 2018

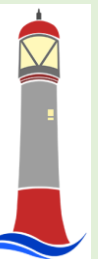
Passed unanimously for a second reading but then ran out of Parliamentary time



Crown Prosecution Service

Unable to prosecute because of lack of evidence.

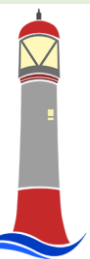
There have been no prosecutions for Forced Marriage with dementia.



Letter from the Crown Prosecution Service: Decision Not to Prosecute

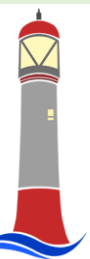
“The evidence given by the registrars simply does not support a situation where a person (the registrar) would sense any concern that both parties were not in agreement to the marriage. They identified with a lucid, happy and content woman thus suggesting awareness of the situation and the surrounding matters; thereby giving full and free consent. To imply she did not do so is not enough to prove the case for forced marriage.”

And yet – as previously shown in the registrars’ letter – one of the registrars, though untrained in mental capacity or safeguarding – DID have concerns!



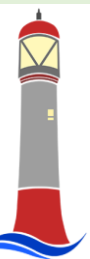
Changes we seek:

- That a marriage should no longer revoke a will (it does not do so in Scotland!)
- Robust procedures for Registrars with accountability if these are not followed
- Notification of civil marriage to be published on the internet, and a link with Power of Attorney
- Evidence to be kept at marriage so that predators can be prosecuted



“Ranlyn” - - -

- Insisted that my mother should be buried when she had always wanted to be cremated
- Kept all the money (and possessions) and refused to leave the house
- Used my mother’s blue badge to park and was caught and prosecuted and failed to pay the fine
- Remarried in 2018 to another elderly lady who lives nearby



WHAT NOW?

Fabian Hamilton MP has raised the issue of Predatory Marriage in Parliament three times, once directly to Boris Johnson at Prime Minister's Questions.

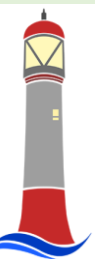
Law Commission Wills Consultation 2017: work on it was paused for Weddings Consultation!

Weddings Report published 19 July 2022

They are now returning to the Wills Consultation with a further consultation in September 2023, including whether marriage should continue to revoke a Will (which dates from section 18 of the Wills Act of 1837)

I had a productive meeting with the Law Commission on 16 November 2022 and my talk to the Law Society in London on June 28 was very well received.

Channel Five documentary about our case and our campaign to be shown in 2023.

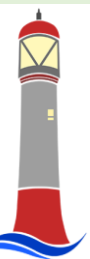


WHAT NOW?

Also proposed in the Weddings consultation:

Separate interviews before marriage to be mandatory (they are not currently) – this is one of our campaign goals

Notification of marriage to be published online – excellent, this is another one of our goals.



OTHER CASES

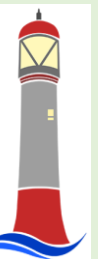
How many other cases are there?

Nobody knows.

“No data is available on the prevalence of predatory marriage – largely because no one in authority is looking for it.” - solicitor Sarah Young

Radio Four’s File on Four contacted 176 solicitors who between them reported 98 enquiries about Predatory Marriage in 2020 – so almost two a week

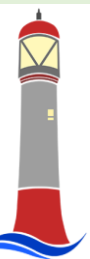
Current case in the courts: Lattimer v Karamanoli



Research:

Nottingham University (Professor Rachael Clawson, Associate Professor of Social Work) has begun some pilot research into Predatory Marriage. She has ethical clearance and a research assistant.

There has been an excellent response from other cases and we hope it will lead to a large-scale research project.



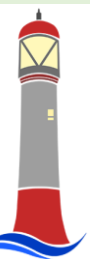
HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please visit our website www.predatorymarriage.uk and our Facebook page (search “predatory marriage” on Facebook)

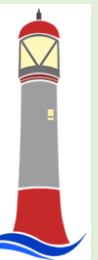
Please write to your MP and ask him or her to contact Fabian Hamilton MP to give their support against Predatory Marriage

Contact me and ask me to give this talk to your organisation!

To find some of the publicity we have had, google Joan Blass or Daphne Franks or Predatory Marriage



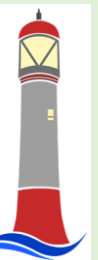
Joan Blass's
grave is the
patch of grass
in the middle,
with no
headstone





With thanks to:

- Stephen, Olli and Alex Franks
- Fabian Hamilton MP and his team especially Tom Hinchcliffe
- Professor Rachael Clawson of Nottingham University
- Professor Justine Schneider of Nottingham University
- Lisa Curtis of The Ann Craft Trust
- Sarah Young of Ridley and Hall Solicitors
- Shoosmiths Solicitors – particularly Andrew Bishop
- Barrister James McKean
- Solicitor Stephen Lawson
- Dr James Warner of Imperial College
- The Police who built a case and tried to help
- The registrars who are supporting our campaign
- The relatives of other cases who have spoken to us
- Beth Chappell of St Gemma's Hospice, Leeds
- Carrie Bower of Age UK
- Real Safeguarding Stories and all involved
- Hourglass – formerly Action on Elder Abuse
- Cancer Research UK
- Everyone who listened and believed us
- Everyone who has invited me to give a talk about it and all those who have listened





EnCOP

Enhanced Care for Older People



Ideas for Learning
Consolidation & Competency
Conclusion

Consolidating Learning:

Reflecting on the session & considering application to practice & what this means for 'your people'

- Think about this session in relation to your own role
- How much of this was revision?
- What have you learned today ?
- How will this help you in your role ?
- Think about your EnCOP self–assessment; consider which performance indicators this session may relate to and how this can be used as part of your own development and competency achievement.

Domain A: Values, Attitudes and Ethical Practice

Domain B: Evidence Based Care : Supporting learning, leadership and improving care for older people

Domain C1: Partnership working and communication with older people, families and others

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Domain D5: Ageing Well: Promoting and supporting holistic psychological health and wellbeing with older people



EnCOP

Enhanced Care for Older People

Enhanced Care for Older People Learning Session Number 21

Recognising , Managing & Supporting Older
People with Swallowing Difficulties

Nichola Todd Speech and Language Therapist .
North Cumbria

Wednesday 20th September 2023
1.30pm – 3pm



Feedback about today's session and any future sessions you may like to see included in our webinar series....

All feedback welcomed; You may want to consider the following –

Was it easy to book onto the session?

Did you find the session went well in this online format ?

Was the content of the session relevant to your area of practice / job role?

Did you enjoy the session?

Thinking about future webinar's, which topics linked to older person's care would you be most interested in? Please put any suggestions in the chat.

Please comment in the chat today or feel free to email us: ghnt.encop@nhs.net





EnCOP

Enhanced Care for Older People

[More information can be found within the Frailty
icare website](#)

www.frailtyicare.org

Our EnCOP pages are located in the workforce
section

**EnCOP Library of Learning & Development
Resources can be found at:**

[EnCOP Assessment Toolkit Domains « I-Care
\(frailtyicare.org.uk\)](#)