

WHO WE ARE: Sentinel Care

by Jaimie M. Engle

My name is Robert Dixon and I am the founder of Sentinel Care, a local provider whose goal is to help seniors stay at home longer - safely. When a senior does not have a son or daughter who is local, willing, and able to help, we come alongside the family and friends to manage our beloved seniors' lives.

I would like to share several real stories with you, the reader, in an attempt to show exactly how working with loving professionals – local, willing, and able can ensure there is a real pot of gold in your “golden years.”

-  **Theresa** is losing capacity and exploited by those who have been “taking care of her.” ☹️ A mass in her liver is discovered. She never wanted the heroic measures. 2 loving daughters are at odds over what to do. Who decides and how?
-  **Albert** is “not quite right.” A woman, 20 years his junior moves in with him who sexually services him while becoming his power of attorney. She obtains credit cards using his SSAN, buys stuff and deeds his \$200K home over to her daughter with a different last name. He is heading towards bankruptcy. Should someone step in? Should he be left alone?
-  **Rosario** had a stroke leaving him paralyzed. His family deserted him decades ago. After the stroke his son withdraws thousand\$ using his debit card. He then heads back to Ireland, leaving dad penniless, flat on his back in a nursing home. The nursing home can't qualify him for Medicaid – no access to his financial info.
-  **Rhianna** had a serious tragedy at an Army base and now receives VA benefits. Vultures looking for a free lunch move in. Her loving mother has lost all hope. What can she and her mother do?
-  **Ron** has a penchant for gambling spending thousand\$ chasing winnings from a Jamaican lottery. Making matters worse he's diagnosed with lung cancer. He has no one local and able to help him. Will he die penniless in a Medicaid bed or worse?
-  **Lilly**: — this 98 year old incapacitated woman (high functioning she may be) brings home a 66 year old “boy-toy” to live with her. She “loans” him thousand\$, they are talking about marriage. Should someone step in? Can her sons protect her, should they? But how?

Or should the State step in? Do they have the right and/ or responsibility? Or should these folks be left to fend for themselves? – Self-determination is, after all, is the American way. Can we strike a balance?

- **“Rent-A-Son/Daughter”** — When a senior needs a little help or lots, without local friends or relatives who are willing and able with the time and expertise to help, we lend a hand, from rides to doctor's appointments, paying bills, advocating for proper medical treatment, managing assets. Whatever it takes – we got this.
- **Case management** working for a senior or their “agent”, we do whatever is asked– a cafeteria plan if you will.

- **Federal fiduciary for our beloved veterans** — if the VA deems a veteran unable to manage their finances, they appoint a “Federal Fiduciary” to manage their VA benefits keeping their assets and persons safe and secure.
- **A Social Security recipient** might be found unable to manage their finances by Social Security Admin. They appoint a “Representative Payee” to manage their SS benefits.
- **Guardianship** — as a last resort (FL Statute 744.344(2) & 744.1012) the court appoints and oversees a person, registered with the State, with the authority to oversee the senior’s life: physically, financially, and emotionally.
- **Probate** — after a person passes on a PR & Successor Trustee settles all matters of the Estate. Wills are deciphered, funds distributed, & property disbursed per Florida law hopefully from their own advanced directives. It is my honor to ensure the persons’ wishes are carried through.

Sentinel Care has both staff and partners, medical and business professionals willing and able to serve. If you or a loved one is in a like predicament call us at 📞 321 725-6799. Btw ... call ahead, before the emergency.

Whatever happened to these seniors? Check out next month’s *Spotlight Magazine* for the outcomes...