

WHO WE ARE: Sentinel Care
by Jaimie M. Engle

My name is Robert Dixon and I am the founder of Sentinel Care whose goal is to help Seniors safely stay at home, longer. When a senior does not have a son or daughter who is local, willing, and able to help 24/7, we come alongside the family to help as directed.

Remember the stories shared in last month's edition of *Spotlight Magazine*? Whether to treat Theresa, whose liver mass evoked bickering between daughters; Albert whose clouded judgment cost him the loss of his home and fortune; Rosario who, after a debilitating stroke, was unable to access his bank account or apply for Medicaid; Rhianna whose trauma left her incapable of managing her VA & SSI income of \$3,600; Ron, scammed into spending over 200K chasing a "Jamaican Lottery" scheme that left him penniless; Lily, whose much younger "boy toy" moved in and spent thousands of her savings..

Should the "State" step in or should people be left to themselves? In this issue, I'll share how these stories were resolved by the caring team at Sentinel Care:

- **Theresa—Who Decides and How?** Without advanced directives, the court appointed me as Guardian to take over. Her daughters were bickering over whether to treat the mass in her liver or let her die. In an attempt to honor her wishes, I learned how Theresa dealt with her parent's and husband's demise, and determined she would not want the "heroics"; only her daughters by her side in peace. By my stepping in, Theresa's wishes were honored and her daughters' relationship reconciled.
- **Albert—Should Someone Step In?** Albert had asserted his independence for over two years. With progressive dementia and a younger woman performing sexual deeds in exchange for his money and his home, I was granted emergency guardianship to retrieve what I could. I reversed one of the "dirty deeds." Able to sell the house I used the proceeds to place Albert in a caring group home for life. I was unable to prosecute her, she was too slick for the system. Beware owners of antique stores who might be out for more than you're your furniture.
- **Rosario—Who Will Advocate?** After his stroke, Rosario was incapacitated, If not for the court no one could access his finances nor his financial information. He did not plan and the nursing home needed to be paid. I petitioned the courts for guardianship. Once granted, I accessed his bank account, paid his nursing home bill, advocated for his wellbeing, and applied for Medicaid benefits on his behalf.

When a person gives money away or pays too much the money is usually irretrievable – lost forever. Please, plan ahead so that long before you or your loved one 'loses marbles' the assets are safe and secure. Having advanced directives in place can be the difference between an advocate spending your money per your wishes or a stranger spending your retirement on their own pleasure until you're penniless. How we can help you:

- **"Rent-A-Son/Daughter"** — when a senior needs any level of help and is without local friends or relatives who are willing *and* able to assist or has loved ones without the time or expertise to help, we lend a hand.

- **Case management**— working for a senior or their “agent” to do whatever is asked; a cafeteria plan of options.
- **Federal fiduciary for veterans** — The VA might appoint a “Federal Fiduciary” to manage a Vet’s benefits using their assets for the Vet.
- **A Social Security recipient**— if Social Security considers a person unable to manage their finances, they appoint a “Representative Payee.”
- **Guardianship** — as a last resort (FL Statute 744.344(2) & 744.1012) the court appoints a person, registered with the State, with the authority to oversee the senior’s life: person and property.
- **Probate** — after a person passes, their Estate needs to be settled by a court-appointed PR and/ or Successor Trustee. Any advanced directives are acted on and the estate distributed per Florida law.

We can help put a plan in place long before 911 is called. Sentinel Care along with partners (both medical and business professionals) are willing and able to serve. If you or a loved one are in need 📞 321 725-6799.

Whatever happened to Rhianna, Ron and Lily? Come back next month for the Rest of the Story...