

Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease – December 11, 2015

Public Comments – Richard W. Black

Hello, my name is Richard Black, I am the son in law of Las Vegas resident Delford Mencarelli. Mr. Mencarelli was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2011 with an MMSE score of 12/30 and died in July 2015 in the home of his court appointed guardian and now criminally indicted exploiter. Our experience with guardianship through Clark County Family Court cost my family 2 years of heartache, gained no professional treatment for dad, cost more than \$800,000 and brings me before you today as an advocate for vulnerable seniors. I want to ask for your help to address a serious risk to wealthy seniors in Clark County and statewide.

My family's experience was not isolated. It is sadly a common occurrence when wealthy vulnerable elderly are identified by several predatory lawyers in Las Vegas who actively work involuntary adult guardianship cases. Our judicial system depends on adversity to adjudicate protection for those who have been violated. In the case of Alzheimer's victims they do not know to complain and can't defend themselves which allows unscrupulous caregivers and lawyers to claim themselves as defenders and enjoy their estates all under the guise of protecting their best interests. In the past 2 years I have investigated about 75 cases in Clark County and have confirmed over \$25,000,000 were lost while the families were removed from their loved ones and improved care was not provided. In most cases they were quickly placed on Medicaid or in a low cost home for individual residential care (HIRC as they are known in Las Vegas) and actively isolated from family. This is made even easier with the number of wealthy single retirees in Las Vegas with loved ones living out of state.

Exploitation of those with diminishing mental capacity is one of the easiest crimes to commit today. The pros know to control the body, isolate and defame legitimate family, and fleece the estate all with the support of the court. They pay doctors with estate funds to support them. Many times petitions for guardianship only contain a two page physician certificate or incognizance certificate signed by physician's assistant, anesthesiologist, or MD's who had no previous exposure to the patient and who indicate the patient wouldn't understand a hearing and have no need to be present. Once the court awards guardianship the predatory guardians focus on modifications of bank accounts, wills, real estate titles, and trusts to convert the assets. Fortunately through the advocacy of 50 victim families and media we have finally gotten the attention of Attorney General, the Nevada Supreme Court, and the Clark County District Attorney to demand accountability and reform to insure the protection of the vulnerable but we need input from true mental health experts. Our work is far from complete.

I ask for your support with Governor Sandoval, the Nevada Guardianship Reform Commission and Clark County Family Court to promote and demand leading edge neurological assessment protocol be put in place to protect these individuals. This task force has the influence and resources to demand the very best protection for those brought before the court in involuntary guardianships. Defending the merits of a complete workup on those being promoted for guardianship, at patient expense, to diagnose the root cause of their mental incognizance, erosion timeline if memory loss is permanent, and to prescribe treatment is imperative. It insures transparency of the process and patient centric treatment and services consistent with their means. Thank you for your time and I hope I can count on your advocacy.