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By Appointment Only

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November 17, 2016

VIA Fax 573-335-6303

Kathy Sweeney

KFVS 12

310 Broadway

Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Dear Ms. Sweeney:

This letter is being written on behalf of my client, Paula Scobey, who serves as the Public Administrator of New Madrid County. I have discussed this matter in detail with my client and have cautioned her not to divulge any information to the general public which might violate her relationship with her wards.

Paula would like to make the following statement: " I cannot talk about the details of a case. I simply can't; I have to protect the privacy rights of the individuals (wards) whom I am serving. I can state how the system works to my knowledge; the Judge makes the determination on whether or not a person is incapacitated and/or disabled; who is suitable and qualified to serve as guardian and/or conservator and the Least Restrictive Environment for that individual based upon the facts presented to him/her in Court. Judges make extremely tough decisions, life-changing decisions and they take great pains in making sure the process is as fair as possible and according to law.

Once appointed by a Court of law, a guardian takes charge of the individual's care, treatment, habilitation, education, support and maintenance. The guardian promotes and protects the care, comfort, safety, health and welfare of the ward. They make decisions that are in the best interest of the ward.

Public Administrators, as guardians, take their duties very seriously, also making very tough decisions as to what is in the best interest of their wards.

There are extreme safe-guards in place regulating facilities caring for individuals and if anyone believes that a regulation is being violated by a facility, they have the right and in the guardian's case, the obligation to file a complaint with the appropriate Department. However, filing a complaint does not mean there was wrong doing and you cannot assume the worst. There are spurious complaints that have no merit."

Paula has every right and obligation to protect the privacy rights of her wards. She can only decide what is in the best interest of her wards, not what would be in her own best interest or anyone else's best interest.

It is our position that if the privacy rights of any of her wards are violated, we will pursue every step available to cease this violation.

I appreciate your concern and interest in these matters, and if I may be of further help, please advise.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles C. Hatley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Charles C. Hatley
Attorney at Law