

To Whom It May Concern:

My mother is 88 years old and was staying at a Board and Care facility. After a few months, I began to get the sense the staff was neglecting my mother's needs. I began to notice that my mother was rapidly dropping weight and her drugs were being mismanaged. I began to get concerned. The next thing that happened really turned my life upside down.

After my mother was at the Board and Care for a few months, I noticed that my mother had developed serious bedsores along the base of her spine. They were really big and almost down to the bone. I had no idea what to make of it but I knew it was serious. The Board and Care owner told me not to worry about it and that old people get these sores and most clear-up right up. I didn't believe her – it looked way too serious to take lightly so I started calling my friends for advice.

One of my friends who had cared for her elderly father for years recommended that I speak to Ken Drake at the San Fernando Valley Elder Law Center. My friend told me that she was extremely pleased with the law firm and that Mr. Drake and his staff were very knowledgeable in Elder Law and in particular Elder Abuse. So I called and made an appointment with them.

I had been caring for my mother since she had suffered a massive stroke nearly a year ago. It was my first time dealing with caring for an elderly parent and frankly; I was unequipped both emotionally, legally and financially to adequately manage the many different types of issues that came flying at me. I soon learned from Mr. Drake that the Board and Care industry had its problems.

Mr. Drake informed that the Board and Care could no longer legally care for my mother because her bedsores were too serious and by law required medical attention – something a Board and Care cannot legally provide.

In short, my mother was forced to leave the Board and Care and be admitted to the hospital where her wounds could be treated medically. My head was spinning; I was missing work and trying to raise a family. I had no idea where to place my mother after she left the hospital.

When I consulted with Mr. Drake, he spent nearly two hours with me explaining how the elder care system worked, my options and what I should do to protect my mother's legal and health care rights. I learned that there were various stages of bedsores and some are much more serious than others and that under the circumstances the Board and Care my mother had been staying at could be legally responsible for not notifying me of my mother's deteriorating condition, that she had developed serious sores and that it was entirely possible that the Board and Care could have been concealing them from me so that they did not lose a paying resident. It infuriated me that the Board and Care was putting their own financial

interest in front of my mothers health needs. Mr. Drake accepted my case and he turned out to be an amazing advocate for me.

What I found so impressive about Mr. Drake was his kindness. He was truly interested in what I had to say and he ended up helping me get through this very difficult time and with great success. I am extremely thankful for this.

Kenneth Drake is a good man and he really cares about his elderly clients. I had found someone I could give my legal problems to and knew he would take care of them as if they were his own.

I feel I not only found a great lawyer, I found a friend. Needless to say, I wholeheartedly recommend Mr. Drake to anyone seeking legal help in dealing with elder care issues.

Sincerely,

H. A.