



Jeff Owen <jeff.k.owen@gmail.com>

Kristyan's Email

Tyler Farmer <tyler@pbtaxlaw.com>
To: Jeff Owen <jeff.k.owen@gmail.com>

Mon, Apr 24, 2017 at 8:37 AM

Jeff and Teresa:

I have made a few specific comments below in red. In general, though, I think we're still having some communication issues, primarily because the majority of the communication is being done via email. I'm not sure what precipitated the email other than the concerns that have been raised about the 24x7 care and the feedback that Kristyan seems to be getting from Kathryn that she wants the care to continue. I suspect there is some perception that Kathryn is being pressured one way or the other, or that there is more concern about the money than is necessary, but that can only be a communication issue because we have all been clear that whatever Kathryn wants – regardless of the cost – is what she should have. If she runs out of money, fine. There just needs to be a plan in place to deal with that scenario if it comes about.

I recommend that we schedule a meeting next week with the two of you, your kids, me and Kristyan to discuss some of these issues and see if we can get Kristyan to share her long-term plans on the finances, communicate a little more about what she is seeing and hearing from Kathryn and the caregivers regarding the level of care, and try to recover some of the trust that is critical to making this whole thing work. Can you coordinate with Jeff and the kids and let me know a couple of days/times that will work? Right now my schedule is pretty flexible except for Tuesday, May 2.

Thanks,

Tyler

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From: Jeff Owen [mailto:jeff.k.owen@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2017 10:31 AM
To: Tyler Farmer <tyler@pbtaxlaw.com>
Subject: Kristyan's Email

Hi Tyler

It's Teresa

I've been stewing over the email from Kristyan all weekend. First, I think my biggest beef is that she appears to be defensive for some reason. I'm not sure why or what happened. We've been working hard to get everybody to contact Kristyan with their concerns rather than complain to us and hope we relay the message. That email really discourages what we've been trying to do.

With respect to Kathryn's need for a full-time caregiver:

That's been an ongoing battle for years. Jeff would get someone in to their home, get them on payroll, and Kathryn would have Shelley fire them, or Kathryn would complain to everyone else about them, or she'd cut their hours, or lord knows what. I suspect that is what's happening now with this caregiver. Kathryn complains to different people that they don't do anything, they don't give her her meds, she doesn't know why they're even there, etc. I don't think Jeff cares one way or the other if she has a caregiver except that 1.) she complains non-stop about it, and 2.) it's expensive. There definitely seems to be a level of Kathryn telling one person one thing and another person something else. We need to discuss with Kristyan what she is being told so and develop a plan on how to respond to Kathryn so that everybody is presenting a united front. Knowing that Kathryn will change her mind depending on who is sitting in front of her, if we can all come to an agreement (still taking into consideration what Kathryn has said) then it becomes an issue that just doesn't need to be discussed with Kathryn going forward. That's been the gist of our conversations about it but we both have always agreed that if she needs it, she should have it for as long as she can. This, of course, is key. Cost is not the issue (assuming there is a long-term financial plan in place to address the care needs if finances are exhausted). We are also concerned of the impact on Keith of that arrangement should they outlive their funds.

Kathryn's complaints like that are often a passive aggressive way of trying to get others to do her bidding for her -- either to communicate to the guardian or the caregiver that she doesn't need them. Or, it's her way of trying to project herself as capable and mask the deterioration she is feeling. Kathryn is a moving target.

But, whatever it is Kathryn needs, she should have. That's no problem. I think it would be better if Kristyan could share with people what the cost of the caregiver is and what the plan is. That email was the first we'd heard of any change to the caregiver's schedule. Otherwise, I expect there will be continued confusion amongst family members.

At this point it almost feels like Kristyan's fallen into the family dynamic. I haven't seen that Kristyan is being influenced by Kristi or ignoring what Kristi may be doing. I think she seeks Kristi for what she is, but is perhaps minimizing some of the "little things" that Kristi is doing to avoid creating more conflict that will in turn affect Kathryn. But this is my take; we should discuss this more with Kristyan. Maybe I misread the email as being more defensive than it was, I don't know. Email sucks that way. But if you're wondering, I'm definitely defensive as hell right now. :)

As for the finances:

two concerns here:

1.) we were told that Highgate doesn't do Medicaid. When costs increase, we get concerned. There again, a heads up of what Kristyan's plans are for the finances would do a lot to alleviate any fears. It's the unknown that is frustrating. We're trying to be advocates here for her and for Jeff's parents.

2.) While Kristyan has assured us that she's keeping an eye on their finances in that email, I don't get the sense that she's grasping what our chief complaint is (and maybe the email isn't really even directed at us, or is only partly, I have no idea really what prompted it):

Kristi has secretly attempted access to that account numerous times, prompting calls from the bank tellers about suspicious activity (last July -- this is what started a lot of this).

Kristi has made allegations that Jeff is stealing from Keith and Kathryn.

Kristi has behaved secretly in other matters concerning their finances.

Kristi has lost them thousands of dollars already just in the sale of the house.

Kristi is reckless with their finances.

Kristi has complained for years that they owe her something.

Kristi is a liar and a cheat.

Kristi is writing the checks and having Kathryn sign them (we can see the images of the check in the online banking).

Kristi is using her influence with Kathryn to access the bank account that JEFF is on. It is not beyond Kristi to throw Jeff under the bus, just look at the stuff she did in the last 6 - 8 months.

I think that whole account needs to be shut down in order to remove Jeff from any risk of Kristi's b.s. He needs to be removed from the task of collecting rent from the renters (they write their checks to him, in his name, currently).

Whatever crap Kristi pulls after that is between her and Kristyan, but as it stands now, Jeff is an owner of that account. Jeff is at risk. Kristi is the risk. As long as Jeff IS on that account, he has some say in what happens with it and we'd LIKE to get some cooperation on it. Jeff's concern is for himself -- because he DOES believe that Kristyan is keeping an eye on the finances but does NOT believe that Kristi is trustworthy and worse, will set him up for failure. It's not just paranoid thinking, either, she has already done that in several instances. This issue will go away once we are able to get the guardianship in place, as the account will be closed and Jeff's name taken off. If this is a significant concern in the meantime, even with some level of supervision taking place, we may be able to accelerate the process of getting the account out of Keith/Kathryn/Jeff's names and into a guardianship account. I'm not sure how Kathryn will react to that, but let's plan on discussing it as an option.

[Quoted text hidden]