

May 3, 2015

Dear Doctor

My adult single son, Thomas H. Schnieders II, has an appointment with you on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

The following is a description and history of his mental illness:

Tom will be 49 on May 9<sup>th</sup>. He was a former State Prosecutor/Private Attorney. In his early forties, he began saying that voices were talking to him and directing his life. Tom refused to admit that he was mentally ill, refused to see a psychiatrist or take any medicine for over six years.

On August 28, 2014, I had to Baker Act him for his hostile and confrontational demeanor when failing to recognize his older brother. The Sheriff's Officers took Tom to the JFK Hospital mental ward. Tom was diagnosed with acute schizophrenia. He was put on two medicines, two tablets of Fluphenazine HCL 10 mg and two tablets of Divalproex Sodium ER 500 mg daily.

Under my supervision and prescriptions from South County Mental Health, Tom has taken his medications every evening since his hospitalization eight months ago.

The medication has calmed him down but does nothing for the constant voices bombarding his brain. Tom says the voices are "former demons" who strike and injure his head and brain.

Tom thinks he is the creator of the universe, that he controls everything, owns everything, and owes no one for any past debt. He never leaves our home unaccompanied but he has joined our family at Easter mass and other family functions at restaurants. Tom is unable to function normally due to the voices that are always with him. His struggles are physically evident.

Some unusual personal traits are:

He always stands up in the middle of the kitchen to eat his meals. He places two AA batteries on his head for pain relief. (He cannot live without the batteries which he insists on changing frequently.) Tom also posts notices to the "former demons" on his bedroom window facing outside.

Tom lives with his mother and me in our home. He is excellent in many ways. He's kind, intelligent, doesn't drink alcohol, smoke or do drugs, and is of high moral character.

A portion of his brain functions well and he helps me with some small chores. He is very good with electronics and computer applications.

His mother and I are both 84 years old and we are very concerned about what will happen to Tom when we can no longer care for him.

Under the Hippo Law, Tom refuses to allow me to accompany him inside the doctors' offices. His mother and I don't want to be "helicopter parents"; however, we want to assist in any way we can to help Tom. We will never violate the Hippo Law as it pertains to doctor/patient relationship. We will continue to inform you of Tom's progress from your recommended treatment which is authorized by the law since Tom is unable to understand his illness.

Please consider other medications and procedures that will ease the constant voices he is hearing.

Thank you for your expertise in caring for Tom,

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Schnieders Sr.