#### IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF THE PERSON AND ESTATE OF KATHLEEN JUNE JONES, PROTECTED PERSON

KATHLEEN JUNE JONES,

Appellant,

vs.

ROBYN FRIEDMAN; AND DONNA SIMMONS.

Respondents.

No. 83967 Electronically Filed Sep 24 2022 01:07 a.m. Elizabeth A. Brown Clerk of Supreme Court

### RESPONDENTS' APPENDIX Volume 19 (Nos. 3191–3219)

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Electronically Filed 7/6/2022 12:20 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

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DISTR	RICT COURT
	NAME OF THE PARTY
CLARK CO	DUNTY, NEVADA
THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSH	HIP )
F THE PERSON AND ESTATE OF:	)
	) Case Number: G-19-052263-A
Kathleen June Jones,	) Department: B
	)
An Adult Protected Pe	erson. )
NOTICE OF	ENTDY OF ODDED
FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS	ENTRY OF ORDER S OF LAW, AND ORDER DENYING MOTION
TO STAY ORDER FOR REMOVAL (	OF GUARDIAN AND ORDER APPOINTING
	OF THE PERSON AND ESTATE AND FOR
ISSUANCE OF LETTERS	<u>OF GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP)</u>
: Whom It May Concern:	
•	20 2022 Fr Ir GF - G - I - G
Notice is hereby given that on June	29, 2022, a Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law,
nd Order Denying Motion to Stay Order	for Removal of Guardian and Order Appointing
ccessor General Guardian of the Person	and Estate and for Issuance of Letters of General
uardianship was entered in the above-titled	matter, a copy of said Order is attached hereto.
DATED: July 6, 2022.	
	MICHAELSON LAW
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Casa Num	nber: G-19-052263-A
Case Null	

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Pursuant to NRCP 5(b) and NEFCR 9, the undersigned hereby certifies that on July 6, 2022 a copy of the (1) Notice of Entry of Order (Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order Denying Motion to Stay Order for Removal of Guardian and Order Appointing Successor General Guardian of the Person and Estate and for Issuance of Letters of General Guardianship) and (2) Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order Denying Motion to Stay Order for Removal of Guardian and Order Appointing Successor General Guardian of the Person and Estate and for Issuance of Letters of General Guardianship were e-served and/or mailed by regular US first class mail, postage prepaid, in a sealed envelope in Henderson, Nevada to the following individuals and/or entities at the following addresses:

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10	CEARCH COUNTY,	THE VIEW	
11	IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF THE PERSON AND ESTATE OF:	Case Number: G-19-052263-A	
	OF THE PERSON AND ESTATE OF.	Department: B	
12	Kathleen June Jones,	Date of Hearing: 01/27/2022	
13	An Adult Protected Person.	Time of Hearing: 11:30 a.m.	
14			
	FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS O	F LAW, AND ORDER DENYING	
15	MOTION TO STAY ORDER FOR REMOVAPPOINTING SUCCESSOR GENERAL G		
16	ESTATE AND FOR ISSUANCE OF LETTER		
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	THIS MATTER came before the Court or	January 27, 2022, for a hearing on the	
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19	following:		
20	1. The Protected Person, Kathleen June	Jones' ("Protected Person" or "Ms. Jones")	
21	Motion to Stay Order for Removal of Guardian	and Order Appointing Successor General	
22	Guardian of the Person and Estate and for Issuance	of Letters of General Administration filed	
23	December 22, 2021 ("Motion to Stay"); and		
24	2. The Guardian Robyn Friedman ("Rob	yn") and Interested Party Donna Simmons'	
25	("Donna") Opposition to Motion to Stay Order for R	temoval of Guardian and Order Appointing	
	-1-		

Successor General Guardian of the Person and Estate and for Issuance of Letters of General Guardianship.

The Court considered the pleadings and papers on file herein, heard oral arguments from counsel and interested parties at the hearing, examined the evidence, and has been fully informed on the matter. It appears to the Court that proper notice has been given to all interested parties. The Court hereby finds, concludes, and orders as follows:

#### I. APPEARANCES

- 3. Elizabeth Mikesell, Esq. on behalf of Maria L. Parra-Sandoval, Esq., courtappointed counsel for the Protected Person.
- 4. John P. Michaelson, Esq. of Michaelson Law on behalf of the Successor Guardian, Robyn Friedman, and Interested Party, Donna Simmons.
- Successor Guardian, Robyn Friedman, along with Ms. Jones and Robyn's husband Perry Friedman.
  - 6. Former Guardian, Kimberly Jones ("Kimberly").
- Supreme Court Guardianship Compliance Financial Forensic Specialist, Sonia
   Jones.
  - 8. Ty Kehoe, Esq. on behalf of non-interested parties Dick and Kandi Powell.
  - 9. Protected Person's son-in-law, Jack Butler.

#### II. FINDINGS OF FACT

10. On September 19, 2019, Robyn and Donna filed a petition for, among other relief, a temporary and general guardianship for Ms. Jones, alleging Ms. Jones was: (1) unable to care for herself medically, financially, and legally without assistance; and (2) harmed by other

individuals related by marriage that were ignoring Kimberly as Ms. Jones' designated agent in Ms. Jones' Financial and Healthcare Powers of Attorney ("POA") and exploiting Ms. Jones.

- 11. The alleged exploitation included: (a) transferring Ms. Jones' ownership interest in her home to the alleged exploiters for far less than market value, (b) the same individuals forcibly preventing Kimberly from acting as Ms. Jones' attorney-in-fact both for financial and medical decisions and not bringing Ms. Jones home from a visit to see them in Arizona, (c) then-husband cancelling Ms. Jones' medical appointments, (d) the initiation of eviction proceedings against Kimberly who had moved into Ms. Jones' home to care for her, and (e) missing funds from Ms. Jones' bank accounts; all while medical professionals informed Robyn and Donna that Ms. Jones required 24/7 medical care and lacked testamentary and contractual capacity. For these reasons, this Court granted and later extended the temporary guardianship.
- 12. At the time of her appointment, this Court fully vetted Robyn as guardian. Robyn's petition for temporary and general guardianship included all factors required by statute about her qualifications to act as guardian and this Court found that she was qualified to be temporary guardian.
- 13. Robyn and Donna provided medical evidence and evaluations from Dr. Gregory Brown showing that Ms. Jones is very limited in her ability to care for herself, manage her affairs, and in her process decision making.
- 14. Dr. Brown stated that he reviewed a 2016 Mini-Cog examination wherein Ms. Jones scored a 1, "a score indicative of a dementing condition." Dr. Brown also reviewed a February 17, 2016, record that indicated that Ms. Jones was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Dementia and a September 5, 2019, letter from Dr. Sabbagh that said Ms. Jones "had a degenerative neurological condition which led her to be unable to manage her own affairs including medical, financial, and legal decisions."

- 15. Dr. Brown found that Ms. Jones suffered from "profound deficits in long-term memory and general recall of overall life historical data, with a general paucity of detail." Specifically, Dr. Brown found that even back in 2019, Ms. Jones:
  - a. Was unable to provide basic information about her life including the number of marriages that she had, how many children and grandchildren she has, the location or title of any of the jobs she held as an adult;
  - b. Unable to understand paying her bills independently;
  - c. Had an inaccurate assessment of both the nature and extent of her estate;
  - d. Was completely unaware of her own medical history and her husband's medical condition; and
  - e. Was unaware of her prescribed medications and the reasons for them.
- 16. Dr. Brown concluded, "[t]his lack of information would prevent her from being able to reasonably process decision making in multiple domains in life."
- 17. Kimberly also provided medical evidence that Ms. Jones lacked capacity to care for herself and manage her medical, financial, and legal decisions. In addition, Kimberly has acknowledged several times, and in multiple pleadings, Ms. Jones' profound lack of capacity and inability to make choices on her own.
- 18. Kimberly opposed and objected to the need for a guardianship, and alternatively, counter-petitioned to be general guardian. However, the Court appointed Kimberly as guardian of the person and estate of Ms. Jones on October 15, 2019, because: 1) Ms. Jones preferred Kimberly to be appointed guardian; 2) Kimberly finally agreed to serve as guardian; and 3) Robyn and Donna voluntarily stepped aside to follow Ms. Jones' preference once a guardianship was initiated to ensure transparency and security in the care of Ms. Jones' person and estate.
- 19. However, following Kimberly's appointment as guardian, Robyn and Donna began claiming that Kimberly was violating the Protected Person's rights including allegations that Kimberly restricted visits and communication between the Protected Person and her immediate family in violation of NRS 159.332.

- 20. On December 30, 2020, Robyn and Donna filed a Verified Petition for Communication, Visits, and Vacation Time with Protected Person ("Visit Petition"). In the Visit Petition, Robyn and Donna stated that they were forced to bring the Visit Petition "to compel Kimberly, as guardian, to be more humane" and "provide the same kind of logistical support to Ms. Jones' family as Kimberly provides to Ms. Jones' medical professionals, legal aid attorney, this Court, friends, neighbors, gardeners, dry cleaners, the veterinarian and the dog groomer." Robyn and Donna requested a "course correction for Kimberly, as the guardian of [the Protected Person], to help Kimberly follow through with protecting [the Protected Person's] right, among others, as recognized in the Protected Person's Bill of Rights, to 'receive telephone calls and personal mail and have visitors." Robyn and Donna had and have no "desire to compel [the Protected Person] to visit with them. Rather, they seek a routine or series of windows of opportunity so that all sides can plan to be available to accomplish the visits" if and only if Ms. Jones wants the visits to happen.
- 21. The Visit Petition provided numerous examples and evidence of how Kimberly used her "just call mom" doctrine to restrict visits and communication with the Protected Person. The examples of the "just call mom" doctrine usually began when Ms. Jones voiced her desire to visit with Robyn on the phone. "When Robyn asks when they can meet, [the Protected Person] hesitates and then says she will call Robyn to set something up. However, invariably, [the Protected Person] does not call, possibly because she simply does not remember to do so. When Robyn appeals to Kimberly for assistance in coordinating the meetings, Kimberly typically ignores the communications for a time and then eventually tersely refers Robyn back to their mother . . . to make the arrangements directly as if [the Protected Person] realistically can carry through on any planning to set up a visit continuing the cruel cycle."
- 22. Moreover, Kimberly did not adhere to a prior agreement hammered out at great cost to Robyn and Donna through numerous communications between counsel for Robyn and

Donna, and counsel for Kimberly, including in-person informal settlement conferences. This agreement was hammered out to secure what should have been obvious and intuitive — Kimberly's assistance with communication and visits with Ms. Jones. Some of Kimberly's failures included disabling FaceTime on Ms. Jones' phone, yelling at Ms. Jones and Robyn in front of Robyn's child about whether Ms. Jones wanted to go on a vacation with Robyn, and Kimberly taking Ms. Jones to Arizona on the exact dates in July 2020 that were set apart in the agreement for Robyn to take Ms. Jones on vacation with no advance notice to Robyn that Kimberly was effectively precluding the pre-planned trip. Kimberly did the same thing to Donna — took Ms. Jones to Arizona at the exact time when Kimberly knew that Donna, who lives in California, was going to travel to Las Vegas to see Ms. Jones without notifying Donna until Donna and other members of the protected person's family were already in Las Vegas.

23. Robyn and Donna provided further evidence showing that Kimberly restricted visits and communication between Ms. Jones and Robyn on October 10, 2020, with a last-minute unplanned offer from Kimberly to drop Ms. Jones off at Robyn's home. Desperate to see her mother, Robyn dropped everything she was doing with her business that day to see Ms. Jones with no notice only to have Kimberly stop responding to text messages and resort to Kimberly's "just call mom" doctrine so that the visit was very limited and short by the time Kimberly finally relented and allowed Robyn to see her mother that day. Kimberly's "just call mom" doctrine also restricted visits on October 13, 2020, October 30, 2020, December 3, 2020, and December 14, 2020. Kimberly would demand family members to coordinate all their visits directly with Ms. Jones who could not do so. When family members would occasionally get very brief moments on the phone with Ms. Jones, Ms. Jones would invariably say she wants to visit, but to call back later. When family members repeatedly tried calling later, Ms. Jones would say the same things and the cycle would repeat. Kimberly would not help to break the cycle. She would say "just call mom."

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- 24. Robyn and Donna alleged that Kimberly coordinates visits between Ms. Jones and her other daughter Teri Butler who lives in Arizona, with whom Kimberly agrees, but other family members get last-minute notice, if any at all, terse, vague text messages, and short phone calls. Clearly Kimberly was able to make appointments with numerous individuals and institutions, especially some family members with whom she agreed. Obviously, calendars were utilized, and a certain level of communication was employed between Kimberly and these individuals and institutions to accomplish the visits or appointments. But when it came to Robyn and Donna, Kimberly refused to assist Ms. Jones in seeing her daughters.
- 25. Ms. Jones' court-appointed legal aid attorney filed an Opposition to the Visit Petition that did not acknowledge the myriad of allegations that Kimberly was restricting visits and communication in violation of Ms. Jones' rights. Instead, the Opposition stated that Ms. Jones did not "want an imposition of anything that looks like a visitation schedule." Courtappointed counsel's logic was that "[a]n additional communication tool will only isolate the Protected Person from her own family." Court-appointed counsel made these representations even while acknowledging a "never-ending tug-of-war communication battle" among Ms. Jones' daughters wherein the daughters should be "sent to mandatory mediation to work out their communication problems" because Ms. Jones has paid "such a high price" for the battle. Moreover, court-appointed counsel acknowledged that "the only issue here is that grown women refuse to work together with what should be simple logistics for setting up communication when the Protected Person wishes to see a family member." Curiously, court-appointed counsel remained adamant that the court should take no action to resolve the "tug-of-war communication battle" even in light of the high price Ms. Jones was and is paying. Court-appointed counsel did not address the many specific allegations of abuse and isolation by Kimberly.
- 26. Kimberly also filed an Opposition to the Visit Petition that asked the Court not to impose any "time-consuming" procedures on her. Like court-appointed counsel, Kimberly did

not address Robyn and Donna's detailed claims of abuse and isolation, but instead swept aside the numerous allegations *en masse* by contending that Robyn and Donna did not provide any evidence to support the arguments that Kimberly restricted access to Ms. Jones.

27. In Reply, Robyn and Donna reiterated that they did not want Ms. Jones "to do things that she does not want to do" or "disregard[] [her] wishes." But rather, they sought simple logistics including a framework of preset opportunities to assist Ms. Jones "when she expresses her desires to her daughters that she wants to see them." Robyn and Donna have always maintained that Ms. Jones should never be forced to visit with them or anyone else. Robyn and Donna also alleged that Kimberly was playing favorites—if a family member agreed with Kimberly's position that the guardianship needed to terminate and care of Ms. Jones should revert back to being handled by Kimberly pursuant to a POA, and that Kimberly need not provide an accounting and that no investigation of Kimberly's conduct should happen, then the family member received Kimberly's assistance with visitation and access to Ms. Jones, but family members that questioned or disagreed with Kimberly did not get any assistance at all—effectively weaponizing Kimberly's position as guardian against her own family.

28. Moreover, the Reply detailed a "strong disconnect between reality and what counsel represents" to the Court. The Reply provided verified statements and photographs showing that Ms. Jones enjoys the time she spends with Robyn's family. The Reply also provided a transcript from a recording of Ms. Jones struggling and failing to use her own cell phone to call Kimberly – showing Ms. Jones likely cannot even call Robyn or Donna without assistance, let alone initiate and coordinate calendaring of visitation with the many members of her family. The Reply further alleged that statements from Ms. Jones' counsel and Kimberly are examples of the disconnect between their assertions that Ms. Jones can fully handle her own

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In virtually every hearing, both Kimberly and Ms. Jones' court-appointed counsel have claimed that Robyn and Donna are seeking to impose visitation on Ms. Jones against her wishes.

affairs and the reality of Ms. Jones condition. "For example, Ms. Parra-Sandoval repeatedly states to the Court that [the Protected Person] continues to forget that she lost [her home] and that Ms. Parra-Sandoval informed this Court that she is the one that informed [the Protected Person] that her husband died." Due to the disconnect, Robyn and Donna asked the District Court to utilize its other available tools to investigate allegations of isolation of Ms. Jones by the guardian.

29. At a hearing on February 11, 2021, the Court acknowledged the disconnect between Ms. Jones' counsel's representations and Robyn and Donna's representations. Courtappointed counsel continued2 to represent to this Court that no further investigation was necessary because Ms. Jones is able to direct her in these legal proceedings and does not want any schedule or framework for visitation. At the hearing, Robyn and Donna's counsel argued that Robyn and Donna tried the "just call June train" and "it doesn't work. She does not have the ability to schedule and call back on her own." Further, it was explained to the Court that Ms. Jones' other daughter Teri Butler "gets visitation" because "Kimberly arranged it. She facilitated. She helps out with that like a normal person."

Additionally, Robyn and Donna stated that the Protected Person's counsel's position (including the pending appeal in Case No. 81799) undermined and was in opposition to the position taken by then guardian, Kimberly Jones, in the related civil case action to recover the Protected Person's home. The undersigned counsel contended that any appeal in Case No.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> It's one thing for court-appointed counsel to adhere to and advocate a client-directed model. But in the context of a guardianship proceeding with a protected person who has been shown to have limitations on capacity, it's another thing to adamantly oppose the introduction of any other eyes and ears or methodologies to assist the Court, or to oppose the introduction of evidence such as missing text messages or criminal records that could show the protected person's rights may be being violated.

81799 should have been brought and directed by the guardian (Kimberly Jones), not the legal aid attorney appointed to protect Ms. Jones' interests. However, the guardian did not bring the appeal because she recognized that saying that [the Protected Person] can direct [an] appeal factors into whether the Protected Person can consent to her house being transferred. In other words, the court-appointed counsel's contentions that Ms. Jones can and has been fully understanding and directing the various appeals in this matter and that she can also fully appreciate who her family members are and facilitate complex calendaring and visitation on her own without assistance from the guardian, undermines Ms. Jones' position in the related civil court litigation that her paid for property was unlawfully taken from her because she lacked the capacity to understand and get help to stop the transfer of the property for far less than market value.

- 31. Around Mother's Day 2021, Robyn and Donna filed a Petition for a court-ordered Mother's Day visit ("Mother's Day Petition") to allow Robyn, Donna, and other family members to have a day-long celebration with Ms. Jones. The Mother's Day Petition alleged that the order was necessary because Kimberly had once again precluded and restricted Robyn and Donna from visiting with their mother around Easter, a month earlier, while simultaneously relocating their mother out of her Las Vegas home to Anaheim, California before this Court had authorized the move.
- 32. On May 5, 2021, Ms. Jones' court-appointed legal aid attorney filed a Petition to Approve her Proposed Visitation Schedule. The proposed visitation schedule included: any visitors who wanted to see Ms. Jones could only do so between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on Fridays with only one visitor per hour. If family members wanted to see Ms. Jones but could not do so during the proposed two-hour time block, then they were to text Kimberly by Thursday morning wherein Kimberly would help Ms. Jones with a phone call during the Friday time block to the family member. Any visitors had to confirm with the guardian 24 hours before the visit.

There were to be no more overnight vacations with Ms. Jones. Visits were only to take place at Ms. Jones' home (or volunteered Donna's home as a potential second place for visits). At a later evidentiary hearing, every witness including Kimberly testified Ms. Jones could not have conceived such an unworkable visitation schedule.

- 33. In response to the serious allegations raised in the pleadings and various hearings, this Court implemented multiple tools to investigate the allegations that the guardian was restricting visits between the protected person and her family in violation of NRS 159.332 and the Protected Person's Bill of Rights—NRS 159.328.
- 34. At the February 11, 2021, hearing, this Court appointed a Guardian ad Litem and an investigator due to the disconnect between the medical reports and the statements from Ms. Jones' court-appointed counsel, stating "I haven't been provided any evidence or suggestion that [Ms. Jones] is able to execute, facilitate, plan, schedule time with [Robyn and Donna]." Further, "we have heard that she loves all of her daughters; that she wants to direct her day." The Court stated that it was "not considering necessarily a visitation schedule that is an order that the protected person participate in or attend, but a scheduled opportunity to facilitate visitation if the protected person [would] like to take advantage." To do that, the Court needed more information to determine whether things changed since the appointment of the guardianship to "make a determination about how much facilitation, how much prompting, how much encouragement, scheduling and participating and execution is appropriate given the protected person's wants."
- 35. On February 12, 2021, the Court entered its order appointing the State Guardianship Compliance Officer to meet with all parties about the "visitation, time together, communications, and their needs, requests, and concerns regarding the Protected Person." Further, the Court asked the investigator to review all records of conversations and text messages "to assist the Court in determining if the Guardian has been acting unreasonably under statute."

- 36. On February 16, 2021, the Court entered its order appointing Elizabeth Brickfield, Esq. as the guardian ad litem for Ms. Jones. The Court asked the guardian ad litem to speak with the protected person and her children about "whether the Guardian has an obligation to facilitate, prompt, encourage, plan, schedule, and/or create an environment that promotes an opportunity for continued communication between Protected Person and her adult daughters based upon the current level of care and needs of the Protected Person."
- 37. On March 29, 2021, the Guardian ad Litem provided her report and stated that Ms. Jones wants to visit and communicate with her family, but "lacks the ability to manage, initiate or plan these communications or visits." Specifically, "Ms. Jones' mental decline is more advanced than her physical decline, that she lacks the ability to comprehend or answer compound questions and that she lacks decision making ability or schedule management." Although Ms. Jones expressed a desire not to have a schedule, Ms. Brickfield believed it is in Ms. Jones' best interest to have a caregiver or guardian who encourages and facilitates such visiting because Ms. Jones lacks the ability to initiate telephone calls or schedule and/or actually carry out visits.
- 38. On May 12, 2021, the Court scheduled an evidentiary hearing upon determining that "there remain issues of fact that must first be determined by the Court at an Evidentiary Hearing before the Court can enter an order relative to Robyn Friedman and Donna Simmons' request for communication, access, and time with their mother, the Protected Person, pursuant to NRS 159.332 through NRS 159.337, and NRS 159.328." The Court ordered all parties to file a pre-trial memorandum that focused on legal points and authorities.
- 39. The court-appointed attorney for the Protected Person did not object to or petition for clarification of the scope of the evidentiary hearing or request that Ms. Jones not be required to testify at the evidentiary hearing. Instead, the legal aid attorney for Ms. Jones filed a Pre-Trial Memo that continued to object to a visitation schedule but did not object to the evidentiary hearing or the scope thereof. Instead, court-appointed counsel filed a Writ Petition with the

appellate courts on the eve of the evidentiary hearing and a Motion to Stay the evidentiary hearing. Counsel contended that the stay was necessary to ensure that Ms. Jones would not be subjected to cross-examination and incur additional attorney's fees.

- 40. On June 7, 2021, this Court entered an Order Denying Petition for Stay. The Court stated that the Protected Person's court-appointed counsel asked the Court to "order a rather complicated and specific schedule." Moreover, the Court took issue with court-appointed counsel's "misleading" assertions that the Visit Petition was "simply a request for visitation orders." Instead, "the allegations are that the Guardian has restricted communication, visitation and/or interaction between the Protected Person and two of her daughters in violation of NRS 159.334." The Court was concerned that the Writ Petition "fails to reference the ramifications of a finding of restriction or refer to the statutory process allowed to a relative who believes access has been restricted." The Court noted that the Motion to Stay concerned whether "the Court might canvass the Protected Person or the Court might allow the daughters to cross-examine their mother during the Evidentiary Hearing" but the court-appointed counsel's worries had "not been properly raised before the District Court" and "would have been an appropriate issue to be raised in the additional legal briefs the Court previously ordered."
- 41. The Court proceeded with the evidentiary hearing on June 8, 2021. Ms. Jones' court-appointed counsel did not have Ms. Jones appear and objected to Ms. Jones testifying at the hearing even though it could have been an opportunity for the Court to hear the Protected Person's wishes first-hand. The Court ruled that Ms. Jones would not be forced to attend or testify at the hearing.
- 42. The Court also had to investigate Kimberly's repeated failure to meet the statutory requirements for the first annual accounting that was initially due in December 2020. The initial Accounting submitted had numerous deficiencies. Over the last year, this Court provided Kimberly numerous opportunities to correct the deficiencies. She failed to do so. Each

supplement continually failed to meet the statutory requirements and alleviate concerns from the Guardianship Compliance Office. This was doubly concerning because Kimberly holds a master's degree in geriatric care and professes to have been involved in hundreds of custody and/or guardianship cases in the state of California. She of all people should know what is expected of a guardian.

- 43. Subsequently, after failing repeatedly to complete her Accounting, this Court ordered Kimberly to provide all receipts to support the Accounting. She did not. Instead, she turned over certain bank account statements. The Guardianship Compliance Office noted many issues with the latest supplemental accounting including thousands of dollars of transactions that the investigator could not confirm were for the benefit of Ms. Jones (for example, thousands of dollars paying a Citibank credit card not in Ms. Jones' name and over \$8,000 in cash withdrawals).
- 44. Due to the serious nature of what Kimberly was doing, Robyn asked for this Court to *sua sponte* remove Kimberly based on the record before the Court including numerous pleadings and filings, many of which were from Kimberly herself, such as the seriously inadequate accounting attempts. On April 5, 2021, Robyn and Donna filed an Opposition to Kimberly's Petition to Relocate Protected Person and Transfer Guardianship. In that Opposition, Robyn and Donna detailed how Kimberly pre-maturely relocated Ms. Jones out of state to Anaheim, California, without this Court's authorization and willingly chose not to provide notice to interested parties in violation of Nevada law. Concerns that Kimberly would do this were raised in previous hearings and Kimberly was admonished not to move June out of state unless and until authorized. The Opposition went into great detail about how the unauthorized relocation of Ms. Jones happened, how Robyn and Donna learned of it, and was supported by emails between counsel and statements from neighbors in Anaheim that they had spoken to Kimberly's boyfriend Dean Loggans ("Dean") during the weekend in question and that Dean

confirmed that he and Kimberly were moving into the home. Kimberly's boyfriend Dean has had altercations with several family members and his presence in Ms. Jones' home is a major stumbling block to family visiting with their mother and grandmother. The Opposition further discussed how Kimberly has failed since being appointed guardian to provide the information required for a budget, inventory, and care plan, and that the Petition to Relocate failed to provide the statutorily required information. Based on Kimberly's unlawful conduct, and ongoing unwillingness and/or inability to act properly as a guardian, Robyn and Donna asked this Court to consider exercising its power and authority to *sua sponte* remove Kimberly as guardian based upon the record before the Court. Court-appointed counsel for the Protected Person did not file anything in response to the Opposition including its request to remove Kimberly.

- 45. In the Mother's Day Petition, Robyn and Donna requested that if Kimberly failed to allow the visit to occur, that the Court should also consider removing Kimberly as guardian. Court-appointed counsel for Ms. Jones did not file an opposition or response to the Mother's Day Petition including its request to remove Kimberly.
- 46. On June 18, 2021, Robyn and Donna filed their Closing Brief for the Evidentiary Hearing wherein they requested that this Court consider removal pursuant to NRS 159.185 if this Court was persuaded that Kimberly weaponized her power as guardian or in other ways harmed Ms. Jones or depleted Ms. Jones' estate. Court-appointed counsel for Ms. Jones never filed anything in response to the request to remove Kimberly.
- 47. On July 15, 2021, Robyn and Donna filed an Objection to Kimberly's Accounting and First Amended Accounting. Again, Robyn and Donna asked this Court to *sua sponte* remove Kimberly as guardian for her failures to adhere to her duties, her dishonesty with the Court, Ms. Jones, and interested parties, and her absolute flouting of the rules and laws governing guardianship, all of which was harming the June and causing great expense to all the parties. The Protected Person's court-appointed counsel filed nothing in response to this request. Indeed,

court-appointed counsel for the Protected Person has taken virtually no action or stance against Kimberly in this matter and even advised the Court against allowing Robyn and Donna to produce additional text messages when it was discovered that Kimberly had deleted them from her doctored disclosures to the Court and the guardianship compliance office.

48. Since being appointed as Successor Guardian, Robyn had Dr. Brown re-evaluate Ms. Jones on December 28, 2021. Dr. Brown found that Ms. Jones' mental situation has only further declined since 2019. Dr. Brown stated in his latest report:

[Ms. Jones] demonstrated an additional decline in mental functioning as demonstrated by a 2 point addition drop in the Folstein MMSE. Her long term memory demonstrated marked deterioration over the past two years. Her ability to correctly identify current responsibilities [bill paying], medications, medical conditions, financial resources, etc. is greatly diminished and largely not accurate. Although she may assent to various activities, her current functioning would suggest the inability to reasonably [weigh] the costs and benefits of many decisions. MMSE likely over represents ability based upon other deficits.

- 49. Dr. Brown further concluded that Ms. Jones "has a sufficient loss of executive function resulting in a barrier to meaningful understanding or rational response," "is unable to execute on desires, preferences, or stated goals, preventing the ability to pursue [Ms. Jones'] own best interest," and "is unable to make or communicate decisions to such an extent that [Ms. Jones] lacks the ability to meet essential requirements for physical health, safety, or self-care without proper assistance." Dr. Brown opined that Ms. Jones requires 24-hour supervision and either requires substantial or total care in almost every aspect of her life from self-care to finances to medical care. Dr. Brown opined that Ms. Jones lacks capacity to enter into a contract, financial commitment, or lease arrangement, make or modify a will or power of attorney, or participate in mediation.
- 50. Ms. Jones' mental status has deteriorated so far that she told Dr. Brown that she has never heard of Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada and stated, "I have no attorney." Ms. Jones further guessed that she speaks with an "Anna Marie" from time to time. Ms. Jones

reported to Dr. Brown that she has no idea what appeals are in general or in specific relative to her case. She stated having no idea who Elizabeth Brickfield is or ever meeting with her. *Id.* She further stated having never met or seen Dr. Brown before in the past.

- 51. Ms. Jones believes she is still paying all her own bills on her own though she could not state what bank she uses or what bills she pays. She has no idea how much money she has and states that her Anaheim home is only valued at \$125,000.
- 52. Ms. Jones' lack of capacity is so profound that she denied taking any medications and does not think she has any medical conditions even though she currently takes nine medications per day for various medical conditions.
- 53. Dr. Brown opined that the Protected Person lacks capacity to "provide reasonable detailed responses to questions" and has an "inability to hold information in awareness long enough to weigh the risks, the benefits, and outcomes of decisions." Dr. Brown concluded that the Protected Person "would have less ability to defend her own interests from the interests of others and thus have increased susceptibility to undue influence of others."

#### III. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 54. In deciding whether to issue a stay, the Court is to generally consider the following factors:
  - (1) whether the object of the appeal or writ petition will be defeated if the stay or injunction is denied;
  - (2) whether appellant/petitioner will suffer irreparable or serious injury if the stay or injunction is denied;
  - (3) whether respondent/real party in interest will suffer irreparable or serious injury if the stay or injunction is granted; and
  - (4) whether appellant/petitioner is likely to prevail on the merits in the appeal or writ petition.

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See NRAP 8(c).

NRAP 8(c)(1), Whether the object of the appeal or writ petition will be defeated if the stay or injunction is denied

55. Denying the requested stay will not defeat the object of court-appointed counsel's appeal. Under the disguise of "due process" and the guardianship Bill of Rights, the object of court-appointed counsel's appeal is to limit this Court's discretion in appointing Guardian ad Litems to represent the best interests of protected persons, scheduling evidentiary hearings, and investigating allegations that court-appointed guardians are violating Nevada law, isolating the protected person, or violating a protected person's Bill of Rights. The object of the appeal has little to do with the Protected Person and everything to do with a misguided attempt to change the guardianship statutes by establishing a pattern or expectation that once a legal aid attorney makes a representation of a protected person's wishes, all further inquiry, even by the Court, must cease. Again, the object of the appeal (assuming it really is focused on due process) will not be defeated if this Court denies the stay. To the contrary, court-appointed counsel has had many opportunities to object to the removal of Kimberly but has simply chosen not to.

# NRAP 8(c)(2), Whether appellant/petitioner will suffer irreparable or serious injury if the stay or injunction is denied

56. Neither court-appointed counsel, nor Ms. Jones will suffer irreparable harm if the requested stay is denied. Since Robyn has been Successor Guardian, Ms. Jones has been thriving and doing very well. Robyn reports that Ms. Jones had a Christmas celebration with more of her family around her than she would have had with Kimberly as guardian – certainly more of a Christmas celebration than she would have had had this Court granted counsel's petition for a Friday morning only visitation schedule. The Protected Person was also able to celebrate Donna's birthday with Donna and the rest of her family. The Court has been informed that Ms. Jones was smiling and having a good time during those celebrations. Additionally, Robyn learned that Kimberly was giving the Protected Person medications off schedule from what the doctors prescribed. Robyn corrected Kimberly's medication mistakes and the Protected Person

is receiving the appropriate medications at the appropriate intervals. The Protected Person does not refute or deny Robyn's reports to the Court.

# NRAP 8(c)(3), Whether respondent/real party in interest will suffer Irreparable or serious injury if the stay or injunction is granted

- 57. Guardian, Robyn, and the Protected Person will suffer irreparable or serious injury if the requested stay is granted. Since being appointed as successor guardian, Robyn has incurred significant cost and time taking over the guardian duties and responsibilities from Kimberly. She spent a significant amount of time in California away from her husband and son. She spent a significant amount of time and money caring for the Protected Person, coordinating in-home care, and beginning to undo the mess Kimberly created and left behind (including medications and finances). Robyn has completely taken over all of the duties and responsibilities for caring for the Protected Person. Accordingly, both the Protected Person and Robyn would suffer extreme irreparable harm if the stay were granted and the guardianship were required to go back to Kimberly's very poor financial and medical management.
- 58. Also, Kimberly has not filed a joinder to the request for stay and has not asked in any way to return to being guardian. It is unknown whether Kimberly even wants or agrees to resume her responsibilities as guardian. Granting the stay could simply place an unwilling guardian back into a position of responsibility for the Protected Person, causing more harm to the Protected Person.

## NRAP 8(c)(4), whether appellant/petitioner is likely to prevail on the merits in the appeal or writ petition

- 59. The appeal filed by court-appointed counsel for the Protected Person is not likely prevail on the merits for the following reasons:
- 60. First, underlying the entire appeal is whether the Protected Person has capacity to direct her court-appointed counsel. All of the medical evidence in this case shows that Ms. Jones lacks capacity to care for herself in nearly every facet of life, including directing legal affairs.

Back in 2019, Dr. Brown found that Ms. Jones' mental capacity was in serious decline requiring a guardianship to protect her from undue influence. On December 28, 2021, Dr. Brown found that the Ms. Jones' mental capacity has severely deteriorated even more over the last two years. Ms. Jones lacks capacity to direct her legal affairs, manage her finances, and otherwise take care of herself. She requires 24/7 care and supervision. Her mental capacity is so deteriorated that she cannot weigh the costs and benefits of decisions and cannot retain information long enough to make decisions. She does not know what an appeal is generally or what appeals are being filed on her behalf specifically. Ms. Jones' court-appointed counsel has never provided any medical evidence to the contrary. Court-appointed counsel's contentions that Ms. Jones is directing her legal affairs are unfounded—all the medical evidence establishes she cannot handle doing so.

- 61. Second, the appellate contention is not likely to prevail on appeal that Ms. Jones' due process rights have been violated because the Court is not adhering to the representations of her court-appointed counsel as the law of the case. Due process is satisfied where interested parties are given an "opportunity to be heard at a meaningful time and in a meaningful manger." *J.D. Constr., Inc. v. IBEX Int'l Grp., LLC*, 126 Nev. 366, 377, 240 P.3d 1033, 1041 (2010) (quoting Mathews v. Eldridge, 424 U.S. 319, 333, 96 S.Ct. 893, 47 L.Ed.2d 18 (1976)).
- 62. The required opportunity to he heard has been amply provided. This Court has not precluded Ms. Jones or court-appointed counsel from any opportunity to be heard throughout this matter. It is the court-appointed counsel for the Protected Person who has made decisions for Ms. Jones to not personally appear before this Court during the numerous hearings held, including the Evidentiary Hearing where this Court properly heard arguments and took evidence pertaining to whether the guardian was violating Ms. Jones' rights.
- 63. Even though court-appointed counsel repeatedly insisted prior to the Evidentiary Hearing, and insists subsequent to the Evidentiary Hearing, that Ms. Jones has full capacity to initiate and calendar visitation schedules with her large family and also is actively directing

several appeals to the Nevada Supreme Court in this matter, oddly, just prior to the Evidentiary Hearing, court-appointed counsel for Ms. Jones temporarily switched positions and argued instead that Ms. Jones lacked capacity to testify and fought to preclude Ms. Jones from testifying at the Evidentiary Hearing where Ms. Jones could have expressed her wishes directly to the Court and all parties.

- 64. In a curious evolution of arguments Ms. Jones' court-appointed counsel now claims due process has been violated because this Court does not unquestioningly follow court-appointed counsel's decrees about what the Protected Person supposedly wants or what is best for the Protected Person. However, having determined that Ms. Jones' rights were being unlawfully violated by the guardian, this Court was required to and had wide discretion to protect Ms. Jones from Kimberly's continued violations of her rights and the rights of Ms. Jones' immediately family. The Court surely could not continue to allow Kimberly to unlawfully restrict visits and communication between Ms. Jones and her family members. This Court weighed the credibility of court-appointed counsel's representations of Ms. Jones' capacity and Ms. Jones' wishes and found it not as compelling as the totality of medical evidence, pleadings and testimony received by the Court. Court-appointed counsel chose to oppose allowing Mr. Jones to express herself at the evidentiary hearing and also chose not to respond many times to requests by other parties for the Court to remove Kimberly based on the record. Ms. Jones' due process rights were not violated by the Court.
- 65. Third, court-appointed counsel contends that Ms. Jones' "due process" rights and the Protected Persons Bill of Rights were violated when this Court found that guardianship proceedings were a better means under the circumstances than a power of attorney in protecting Ms. Jones and her estate. However, court-appointed counsel did not dispute that Ms. Jones was being exploited prior to the appointment of guardian. Court-appointed counsel never denied that Ms. Jones lost the Kraft home for less than market value, that Ms. Jones' dogs were taken from

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her, nor has court-appointed counsel refuted any of the other serious allegations that were presented before this Court in 2019. All of the instances of alleged abuse occurred while the Power of Attorney in question was in operation. The Power of Attorney framework was insufficient to protect Ms. Jones in the circumstances of this case. Court-appointed counsel never showed this Court that the Protected Person would have been protected under the circumstances had the guardianship proceedings been terminated, the legal aid attorney allowed to withdraw, the Court's oversight and the guardianship compliance offices reviewed been suspended and the Power of Attorney document reinstated.

- 66. Fourth, the Protected Person contends that it was a violation of the Bill of Rights for this Court to investigate and contemplate a "visitation schedule." Such a contention misleadingly narrows the situation before the Court. This Court found that Kimberly, as guardian, was restricting and precluding visits and communication between Ms. Jones and her family in direct violation of the bill of rights. Ms. Jones' court-appointed counsel never disputed Robyn and Donna's allegations that Kimberly was isolating Ms. Jones and violating her rights by restricting visits. Ms. Jones' court-appointed counsel has never told this Court that Ms. Jones denies that Kimberly restricted her visits and communication. Ms. Jones' court-appointed counsel has never argued that Robyn and Donna fabricated all the numerous specific instances in which Kimberly restricted or precluded visits and communication from occurring. Ms. Jones' court-appointed counsel took no position on other serious allegations such as Kimberly prematurely relocating Ms. Jones to Anaheim before this Court authorized it. Ms. Jones' courtappointed counsel has also largely remained silent on Kimberly's missing and/or statutorily deficient accounting, budget, care plan, and inventories. Accordingly, Ms. Jones' courtappointed counsel has never denied that Kimberly was violating Ms. Jones' rights.
- 67. Fifth, court-appointed counsel for the Protected Person contends that this Court violated the Protected Person's due process rights and rights under the protected person's Bill of

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Rights by removing Kimberly as guardian because Ms. Jones wants Kimberly to be her guardian. It is important to note that Robyn and Donna have repeatedly filed documents over the course of months asking the Court to consider removing Kimberly as guardian *sua sponte*. Court-appointed counsel for Ms. Jones never filed a written objection or opposition to any of those requests even though the request was made time and again.

- 68. Sixth, court-appointed counsel for the Protected Person contends that the Protected Person's due process rights and other guardianship statutes were violated because the Court did not appropriately vet Robyn before appointing her as successor guardian. But this Court already had. It is the law of the case that Robyn meets the statutory requirements to be appointed as guardian since the Court appointed Robyn as temporary guardian.
- 69. Seventh, Ms. Jones' court-appointed counsel provides no authority contesting this Court's wide discretion to schedule evidentiary hearings or to appoint Guardians ad Litem. Additionally, court-appointed counsel provides no authority showing that the Court had no right to investigate allegations that Kimberly was violating Ms. Jones' bill of rights. The appeal is not likely to prevail on the merits.

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#### NOW THEREFORE, 1 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUGED AND DECREED that the Motion to Stay Order 2 for Removal of Guardian and Order Appointing Successor General Guardian of the Person and 3 Estate and for Issuance of Letters of General Administration is hereby DENIED. 4 5 6 Dated this 29th day of June, 2022 7 Juda Marquis 8 9 6EB 13D 2759 1587 **Linda Marquis** 10 **District Court Judge** Respectfully submitted by: 11 MICHAELSON LAW 12 /s/ John P. Michaelson John P. Michaelson, Esq. 13 Nevada Bar No. 7822 john@michaelsonlaw.com 14 Matthew D. Whittaker, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 13281 15 matthew@michaelsonlaw.com Guardian, Robyn Friedman, 16 and Donna Simmons 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

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14		r	
15	If indicated below, a copy of the above mentioned filings were also served by mail via United States Postal Service, postage prepaid, to the parties listed below at their last known addresses on 6/30/2022		
16		Decree 0 I and d DIIC	
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