

VISITOR'S REPORT

CONTINUATION SHEET

Name of Case

ALEXANDER, B.R.

Case No.

B.1669.

As requested I made enquiries into the above case on Wednesday, the 15th November. I made an appointment with Dr. Stephenson of Maiden Newton and had a long conversation with him. He told me that he had attended Dr. Norton in his last illness and that he had requested him to keep an eye on the welfare of Miss Alexander, and he had been in the habit of visiting her monthly. He said he had been for some time dissatisfied with the state of affairs there but had been given to understand that in Dr. Norton's will the Humphries had been allowed to live in the house. He said he remonstrated with them often, especially when they bought a car with the patient's money and were in the habit of going for long drives and even tours in this without taking the patient. He said that after he had talked to them on this matter they did occasionally take the patient. He said that both Mr. and Mrs. Humphries drank and were often under the influence of alcohol, that their son did practically nothing but occasionally drive the car, and that their two daughters also lived in the house, one of whom was most promiscuous in her sexual relations and had had two illegitimate children. He said that now fortunately the son has been called up and the daughter without children has left, so that there now remain in the house Mr. and Mrs. Humphries, one daughter and two children. Finally, in the Summer of this year he had an altercation with the Humphries who told him that Miss Alexander did not wish him to make any more monthly visits. He did not believe that this

VISITOR'S REPORT

CONTINUATION SHEET

Name of Case

ALEXANDER, B.R. (contd :-

Case No.

was Miss Alexander's wish but he told them that he would cease his monthly visits and put the matter in other hands and straight away got in touch with Master Poyser. He said that he felt that the patient is definitely under the influence of the Humphries and frightened of them, and he felt that something should be done as soon as possible to remedy matters. He also stated that a certain amount of the patient's property had been sold and he was in a position to prove this in two cases as the articles were in the houses of people who were his patients. I asked Dr. Stephenson if he knew of any suitable people who might be able to take the Humphries' place in looking after the patient and helping her run the house. He said that he did not personally know of anybody but gave me the name of a Miss Stevenson who is the Visitor for the County Association for Mental Welfare. He said she was a most excellent person and also knew about the case and would most likely be able to help.

I then called to see the patient. After knocking at the front door and waiting for a certain amount of time, Miss Humphries came round from the back and I enquired for the patient. She told me that she was out and she did not know where she had gone. At this moment Mrs. Humphries arrived and also said the patient was out and had gone for a walk with a friend and would not be back for about an hour and would I return then. Mrs. Humphries impressed me most unfavourably as she was slatternly and blousy. I said I would go and return as suggested. I however only went as far as

VISITOR'S REPORT

CONTINUATION SHEET

Name of Case

ALEXANDER, B.R. (contd :-

Case No.

the end of the drive and immediately returned to the back door saying that I would first of all look over the house and wait for the patient there. On going inside I found the patient in the kitchen and was informed that she had returned unexpectedly. I noticed, however, that she was not dressed for going out. I took no notice of Mrs. Humphries and told the patient that I wished to have a conversation with her alone. The patient looked at Mrs. Humphries in a frightened way and said "May I". Mrs. Humphries did not reply but I merely said "Of course I wish to speak to you as you are our client, please take me to a room where we can talk alone". The patient took me to the drawing room which is a large room, well furnished and clean. The patient is a small frail looking woman in an obviously nervous condition and very frightened. At first she was unwilling to talk as she feared Mrs. Humphries would hear what she said, so I took her to the further end of the room away from the door and said sit on the sofa beside her and spoke in a low voice. She then said that she was terrified of the Humphries as they were always all talking at her. I asked her if she wanted to get rid of them and she nodded her head violently, so I said that we would see about the matter. She then said that she daren't be in the house with them while they were under notice to go, so I suggested that she should leave the house for a period and live in rooms elsewhere while the change over was effected and then she could return and start things anew. This suggestion delighted her and she smiled for the

VISITOR'S REPORT

CONTINUATION SHEET

Name of Case

ALEXANDER, B.R. (contd :-

Case No.

first time and got most excited about it and said she hoped this could be done as soon as possible. I asked her about the money and she said that she went to the bank weekly to cash the cheque and handed the money then to Mrs. Humphries who told her that it was all required for the running of the house. She confirmed that the Humphries used her car and seldom took her with them. The patient was so frightened that she asked me not to tell the Humphries then that there was a suggestion of their being dismissed and wanted me to tell her what to inform the Humphries as to the subject of our conversation. I told her to tell them that as her affairs had been put in the hands of the Official Solicitor I had come down to see her to discuss business matters with her and to impress on her that it was important for her to carry out the requests of the Official Solicitor. I told her to tell Mrs. Humphries that the initiative no longer rested with her but with the Official Solicitor. Owing to the patient's frightened condition and my fear that if I spoke too strongly to the Humphries it would re-act unfavourably on her, I left the house without practically any further conversation, but told the patient that she would be hearing soon from the Official Solicitor as to what he wished her to do.

I then called on the Vicar of the Parish, Mr. Deane. He was unfortunately out but I had a conversation with his wife who confirmed everything that Dr. Stephenson had told me and said that she would do anything she could to assist as she was so sorry for the patient. I then went to Dorchester

beatrice
CASE

VISITOR'S REPORT

CONTINUATION SHEET

Name of Case

ALEXANDER, B.R. (contd :-

Case No.

and called at Miss Stevenson's office. Unfortunately, however, she was away visiting and her assistant did not think ~~think~~ she would return to her office that day. She however gave me her private telephone number and I called her up in the evening and had a long talk with her. She struck me as a most excellent woman and who who may be of great assistance. She knew about the case as she had had dealings with the Humphries with the possibility of the necessity of certifying the daughter's two children as mental deficients. She said that she was extremely sorry for the patient and hoped that something could be done to help her. She said that she thought she knew of an excellent woman to take charge of the household and be a companion to the patient. She was an ex-nurse and was strong minded but kindly, in fact just the person required. Also she thought she knew somebody in Dorchester who would have the patient for a few weeks to stay with her while the changes were being effected at the Old Rectory, Chilfrone. I thanked her very much for her offer of help and told her that the Official Solicitor would get in touch with her by letter as soon as possible. Her address is Miss Stevenson, Dorset Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare, 45, High West Street, Dorchester.

I feel strongly that the present state of affairs in this case should not be allowed to continue any longer than it is absolutely necessary. The patient is a poor

Beatrice Ruth

MENTAL WELFARE

VISITOR'S REPORT

CONTINUATION SHEET

Name of Case

ALEXANDER, E.R. (contd :-

Case No.

frail little woman of weak character and definitely terrified of the Humphries and I feel that unless a change is made soon great harm may be done to the patient's mental and physical condition. On the other hand, if a suitable and kindly person can be found to look after her and run the house, she should be happy and contented. It should be stated that Dr. Norton was unfortunately inclined to drink and died from its effects, and he had influenced the patient to do the same thing. I do not think that the patient is drinking very much now but this has always got to be taken into account when choosing a companion for her. With regard to the sale of the patient's furniture etc. I told the patient to tell Mrs. Humphries that I informed her that the Official Solicitor would be sending somebody to take a list of the effects in the house and compare them with the list prepared for Probate and that questions would be asked as to any discrepancies. I did this particularly to prevent the possibility of the Humphries selling any further articles before they might be compelled to leave. If it is decided to fall in with the suggestions I have made, possibly the Official Solicitor would get in touch as soon as possible with Miss Stevenson on the matter.

Russell

Visitor to the Official Solicitor.

Date.

20/1/39