

Inquiry into Elder Abuse in Queensland

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In February 2011 I was employed as a medical receptionist working with a doctor who was doing home visits. One particular couple David (99) and Elisabeth (92) had no family. Because they were frail they needed an EPOA. In February 2017 I agreed to become EPOA and soon I realised that there were some issues with neighbour Lawrence controlling them. In 2006 Lawrence had sold them the house they now lived in and Lawrence had moved across the road from them.

Lawrence told David that he was a retired Federal Police Officer and he convinced David that (for a large fortnightly fee) he would provide David with information on who in the community he could and couldn't trust.

I organised an ACAT assessment for David and Elisabeth but Lawrence and Glenda would always call the service providers and cancel the services.

Lawrence told David that I should not be trusted and he had both David and Elisabeth petrified of everyone except Noelene the gardener. Noelene and Lawrence appeared to be working together to financially abuse David and Elisabeth.

Lawrence and Glenda had annual 3 month holidays in Europe and in 2014 while he was away David purchased another home in another street (to get away from Lawrence).

Lawrence returned from Europe and forced David and Elisabeth back into the home opposite him. Lawrence sold the second home that David had purchased and Lawrence took care of the conveyancing on the property. Lawrence stole the entire proceeds from that property sale. David didn't tell me for a long while because he was afraid of Lawrence.

Lawrence made David purchase a new Honda Jazz and then stole it from David. Lawrence stole other cars from David and totally controlled everything that David spent his money on while constantly telling David how evil everyone else was while financially abusing him.

At the same time the gardener Noelene was constantly telling Elisabeth that she needed money and Elisabeth would give her money. Noelene financially abused Elisabeth for decades too. Also, Noelene overcharged for her gardening services. Noelene stole every piece of equipment that OVA provided to David to help him survive at home.

Because I couldn't keep David and Elisabeth safe in October 2017 I made application to QCAT to be removed as EPOA and soon after Noelene and Lawrence became EPOA.

I often saw unexplained bruising on both David and Lisa.

I reported everything to QCAT and upon my application orders were made for the OPG and OAG to take over and investigate however because Lawrence's daughter worked there these issues were never investigated.

These people got away with decades of social isolation, emotional, psychological and financial abuse.