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April 17, 2017

Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs
Attn: Teresa J. Broussard
525 Florida Street, 4th Floor
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

Dear Ms. Broussard:

I am in receipt of your letter regarding the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs (GOEA) and its inquiry regarding the formal complaint received from the family of Ms. Helen Plummer. Pursuant to our teleconference and your subsequent email to me received April 10, 2017, it is our understanding that the intent of your letter was to request that the EBRCOA Board of Directors take proper steps to determine if a conflict of interest and/or unethical behavior occurred.

Prior to receiving your letter, the Board had already begun, with input and guidance from legal counsel, the process of reviewing and making appropriate revisions to our policies, procedures, and bylaws to improve our operational efficiency and to ensure full compliance with GOEA rules and regulations. Immediately upon those revisions and subsequent approval of the board of directors we will forward a completed plan of action to your office for review.

In order to verify whether any EBRCOA board members or employees have been identified as executor or beneficiary in any Last Will and Testament of EBRCOA clients (to whom they are not related), an email has been sent to all staff and board members requesting such disclosure.

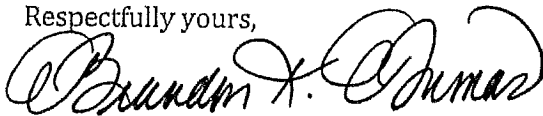
Regarding Ms. Plummer not being referred to Southeast Legal Services per the EBRCOA Area Plan/Service Procurement, the Southern University Law Center Elder Law Clinic was the recipient of a grant (\$115,500), which began January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 from the AARP Foundation to support low-income elderly in the community. SULC Elder Law Clinic was awarded funds to assist seniors with controlling their end-of-life decisions among other issues. On Wednesday, June 29, 2016 at 10:00am, there were five (5) members of the SULC Elder Law Clinic who presented to the EBRCOA Florida Blvd. Senior Center make seniors aware of the benefits and services provided. After the presentation Ms. Plummer made the decision to choose SULC Elder Law services to assist her with a Last Will and

Testament. She completed a postcard to be contacted and to schedule an appointment with an Elder Law Representative. Please see attached postcard that was handed out after the presentation.

SULC Elder Law Clinic has partnered with EBRCOA and GOEA for a number of years. More recently, on October 7th and 8th 2016, the EBRCOA CEO, Several Board Members, GOEA Staff and Governor's Office Administration staff along with COA seniors participated in an Elder Law Summit at the Southern University Law Center. The Elder Law Clinic, since prior to this administration taking the helm of the agency, has been instrumental in providing legal education and services to our seniors free of charge. According to our seniors, the SULC Elder Law Clinic has been much more accessible, consistent, and timely than Southeast Legal Services.

The EBRCOA Board of Directors will continue taking the steps necessary to ensure that the agency continues to provide outstanding services to our clients, as has occurred in the past. Instances such as these cause us to review and make appropriate revisions to our governing documents to achieve this aim. Per your request, once the necessary steps have been completed and appropriate measures have been implemented, we will forward a comprehensive plan of action of all the requested. Thank you for your support of the East Baton Rouge Council on Aging; please don't hesitate to contact me if additional information is required.

Respectfully yours,



Brandon K. Dumas, Ph.D.
Chairman
East Baton Rouge Council on Aging

Enclosure:
Elder Law Outreach Services Post Card Sample



**SOUTHERN
UNIVERSITY**
LAW CENTER

Attn: Elder Law Outreach Services
2 Roosevelt Steptoe Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70813





Yes, I'd like to know more about the benefits of Elder Law Services!

Please have a representative contact me at one of the following times.

8 AM - 11 AM 11 AM - 2 PM 2 PM - 5 PM 5 PM - 8 PM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Supported by a grant from the **AARP** Foundation

ELDERLY LAW OUTREACH

Professor Dorothy Jackson



**SOUTHERN
UNIVERSITY
LAW CENTER**
Elder Law Outreach Services



Put Your Affairs in Order for Better Peace of Mind

You can receive help with:

- Wills
- Successions
- Powers of Attorney
- Advanced Directives
- Making Sure Your Final
Wishes are Known

We can even come to you.

Call the Elder Law Hotline at 225-771-5744

**Free Legal Services for Seniors
Provided by SULC Elder Law Clinic**

Making Your Wishes Known is the Loving Choice for Your Family.

Why Do I Need a Will?

If you don't have a Will the State will decide what happens to your property when you die.

Why Do I Need to Do a Succession?

If a prior owner of property you hold is deceased and you have not been placed into legal ownership of the property, you may face challenges with insurance payments for repairs, legal registration, or the ability to sell that property. A succession puts people in legal ownership of property.

Why Do I Need a Power of Attorney?

If something should happen to you where you can no longer make your own decisions or care for yourself, your family will have to have to take judicial action and the court will appoint someone to handle your affairs. With a power of attorney, you can select this person yourself before the need arises.

Why Do I Need an Advanced Directive?

More and more doctors and hospitals are asking patients to spell out what kind of care they want, how much care they want, and how they want medical emergencies to be handled. The only way to ensure that your wishes are followed is to have a written document that can be given to health care providers.

Your Final Wishes

In Louisiana, if you wish to be cremated, you must have an affidavit of cremation. Your family can sign this after you are gone, but they have to be in agreement and know that this is your wish. Signing a document today will ensure that your wishes are followed.