

3/15/99

Dear Harold:

I got home late (11:45 P.M.) last night after a very long trip via Atlanta instead of Cincinnati due to the weather. I left Reagan National at about 11:00 A.M., so it made for a long day. During the trip home I had a lot of time to think about our visit, your health trials, and your general demeanor as expressed by Dr. Grissim and the hospital staff.

While at the hospital, the nursing staff regaled me with descriptions of your behavior, as perceived by them, which included the words paranoid, incoherent, abusive, and self-destructive. The perceptions of your paranoia may come from your choice of words ("They're trying to kill me here."); the perceptions of incoherence comes from your conversations regarding your belief you were at Johns-Hopkins when still at Frederick Memorial and not quite out of your dream-state; perceptions of abuse come from your form of communication with the staff in general (as noted by your haranguing the nurses about the your bruises on your arms; the perceptions of self-abuse come from your removal of the heparin IV and desire to self medicate with your own Coumadin or blood pressure medicines. If they got the nursing and doctors staff before a judge, I am afraid that their affidavits/witness testimony would carry more weight than your protestations.

I fear that you are setting yourself up, whether you realize it or not, for a potential declaration of mental incompetence based on your interactions with the medical staff (likely deemed by a judge to be impartial) and, as a result, you are running the risk of having your affairs turned over to a legal guardian. I think you can avoid this possibility with a few simple but potentially difficult changes in your behavior: 1) treat every person with whom you interact with respect; 2) when concerns arise regarding your treatment or care arise, ask a question of the appropriate staff member why is this course of therapy being chosen or please let me understand why what your doing for me is in my best interest? 3) do what they tell you to do and understand they are attempting to get you to feel better.

Right now, they makes seem to be well out of your control but can you imagine if your affairs were taken away and given to a guardian? Please don't loose control by not taking control of your interpersonal relations. I believe you have the ability to avoid this potential consequence if you can be a little more circumspect with the hospital staff and others around you.

I wish I could have stayed longer or lived in the area so that I could look out for you as I did Friday and Saturday but I couldn't. Hopefully, I job will turn up and I will get back to the east coast and live in Frederick. Instead I shall attempt to visit roughly every 3-4 months.

I wasn't able to do much with your records this visit since I spent so much time with you at the hospital. In discussion with Jerry Saturday night, Jerry offered, with your permission, to send me some records to copy an return by insured UPS mail if I could secure your permission. I am interested in

making copies of your FBI bulkies so that I can scan them and place them on a CD-ROM for preservation before anything happens to them before or after they go to Hood College. Let Jerry and I know if you think I can be trusted to treat them with care and return them expeditiously after receipt and scanning. This would help me immensely in preserving the records and making them available to all your buddies who would not have to travel to Hood College when they reside there.

You will note that I have made a copy of Cornwell's book for you to read until you locate a bound copy. It would take 3-6 weeks to order a copy for you. I should have placed this copy in my luggage but I inadvertently left it next to where I was packing my suit case the night before I left for D.C. If you can't use it as is, just pitch it in the trash. A I copies all pages, front and back covers and inside leafs so that you have all the info the book contains.

I hope you and Lil' are feeling better. With regard to finances and alternative health care facilities, you may consider a reverse mortgage option if financing your healthcare or nursing home expenses overwhelm your ability to pay and run out of options. Simply, a reverse mortgage is where your house and land are bought by a bank (generally) and they pay you a monthly stipend (a fixed amount) for the rest of your life. The expectation is that the value of the house and property will not exceed their total outlay before you die. If you outlive the expectations, they eat the amount which exceeds the sale of the house; if you are deceased before getting the value of the house and property the remainder goes to the estate. Meanwhile they have your capital to invest in an annuity to finance your stipend while they pocket the remainder. This is a last resort option used by seniors with health problems who are equity rich and cash poor. I know you want to deed the house to Hood, but I hope you will consider this option should it become necessary.

Please get well, make Lil' a happy woman, and live a long extended healthy life.

My best wishes,

Clay O.

