



## SUN VALLEY GROUP

October 8, 2010

Maria Tomasch  
Producer  
ABC 15 News

Dear Ms. Tomasch:

For over 14 years The Sun Valley Group, Inc. (SVG) has improved the quality of life for hundreds of clients. The work of court-appointed fiduciaries (e.g., guardians, conservators, personal representatives, etc.) is mostly comprised of cases where no one else is willing or able to act on the client's behalf. Often a client has no friends or family to advocate for them. In other situations, the client is being exploited by the very friends and family that should be assisting them. In either case, the court is forced to step in and appoint a professional fiduciary as an impartial third party to ensure the client is receiving the proper care. Often the probate court appoints a professional fiduciary to parachute into family battlefields because the family member(s) behavior is not in the best interest of the ward. The work of a fiduciary is multidisciplinary and often draws on knowledge of social work, medicine, finance and legal disciplines—not an easy task.

It may benefit you to know that in over 14 years of experience we have only had the need to apply for Medicaid (AHCCCS) benefits for a total of 4 clients. Additionally, we have only transferred a total of 3 cases to the Public Fiduciary. In over 14 years of doing business and managing hundreds of cases, it would be difficult to argue any significant unnecessary cost to the taxpayers was incurred—instead, look at the value provided to the clients and society.

Serving as a court appointed Guardian and Conservator is a difficult, stressful and labor-intensive responsibility which has great inherent risk. Much of the duties of a fiduciary, such as having on-call 24 hours/7 days a week availability, are uncompensated. Despite the high level of risk, professional fiduciaries provide a critical service to those in need.

We have successfully recovered millions of dollars in cash and assets from exploiters for our clients to ensure they are provided for in the future. We have obtained millions in collections, awards and benefits for which our clients were entitled. We assess clients' medical needs and are often able to ensure they receive a high level of care ultimately resulting in an overall improvement to their lives.

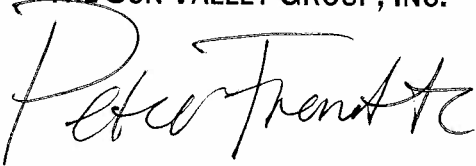
October 8, 2010

2

The probate court maintains and operates under a comprehensive system of checks and balances and has the highest authority to resolve conflict. We look forward to the recommendations that the newly formed taskforce will implement to better the system.

Sincerely,

**THE SUN VALLEY GROUP, INC.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Frenette". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a stylized "F".

**Peter Frenette**

**CEO**

pf/tc