

UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW COMMITTEE

TO THE LYCOMING LAW ASSOCIATION

As I have been Chair of this committee for some years, I wanted to report regarding the only ongoing matter that has been handled in the last several years, namely an action and complaint against Deborah L. Berrigan, Eldercare Solutions and Eldercare Solutions, Inc.

Because of complaints received by the committee, the committee did investigate and reasonably believed that the said Deborah L. Berrigan and the organizations named above were involved in the unauthorized practice of law. We obtained information pertaining to said person, that she had been drafting legal documents, including powers of attorney, and at times holding herself out as an attorney and giving advice. Our committee had various meetings and talked to one of her former employers who had supplied information about her activities. This investigation was at the request of the Executive Committee of the Lycoming Law Association.

Contact was made by the committee chair to the state chairman of the unauthorized practice committee, a committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. That chair had indicated that the state committee would be willing to pay part of the legal fees necessary to resolve Ms. Berrigan's activities.

The undersigned Chairman met with the Executive Committee of the Lycoming Law Association in 2008 and presented the committee's recommendation to proceed against Ms. Berrigan. The Law Association agreed to hire Attorney Michael Wiley, who was able to bring this matter before the Court. This resulted in a consent order and an order of court dated November 25, 2009 executed by the Honorable J. Michael Williamson, Special Judge presiding.

It is the recommendation of the undersigned that there be publicity attached to this in a news release in the near future, letting people know that persons cannot engage in the unauthorized practice of law. Unless the public knows about the situation with Eldercare Solutions, Eldercare Solutions Inc. and Defendant Berrigan, the public would not be on guard as to any future breach of this court order.

If there is a press release or other public information, this would be a good opportunity for the Association to point out the provisions of 42 Pa.C.S.A. 2524 pertaining to unauthorized practice of law and to let the public know that the Association is concerned about such activity of unauthorized practice of law and harmful effects on our society.

A copy of the Order of the Honorable J. Michael Williamson as well as the Consent

Order and agreement are attached to this report.

Except for the above there have been no further references of allegations of unauthorized practice to our committee and the committee chairman has been in touch with the state committee chair and has been invited to be part of the state committee meetings. To date, the undersigned has been unable to attend such meetings but hopes to in the future.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott A. Williams, Esquire

Date: _____