

Making tough decisions

My column today addresses the transition of seniors from their home to a care facility, an event which can traumatize those who are unprepared. More and more people will face this tough decision as our country ages. Sadly, many of us avoid discussing such life changing situations, even though aging is a process we will all endure. Good planning can help those being placed and the one doing the placing understand why it is necessary, even though the senior wants to remain at home where they are comfortable and know their surroundings.

Circumstances often dictate change, regardless of whether or not either party wants this to occur. The situation is further compounded when the parties live far apart. One of the most difficult obstacles to overcome is lack of communication. What



HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD
JOE STECKLER

should be an easy decision to make becomes quite complicated, and the specter of a guardianship or some other element of unwanted control rears its ugly head. This could be avoided if family members discussed their wishes with each other before things escalated to a contested no-win situation.

I say no-win because one party will likely bear permanent scars of the conflict resolution. Early communication of wishes can often, though not always, facilitate an

understanding amicable to either party, avoiding the placement of a guardianship on the party needing advanced care.

Something not often discussed or understood is the licensing of the assisted living facility, a matter of great importance. Some facilities are licensed to provide more advanced care than others, enabling the senior to stay where they are happy and want to remain, rather than make another stressful move to a different facility. My advice is to ask questions and avail yourself of a placement service. This is a new experience for you, but not for them, and they can help you ask the right questions.

Knowing when to place a person is a tough decision, and most are ill prepared to make the tough choices as to when to place. When we live far away, we are not always as familiar as we would like to be and become

more dependent on the word of others who have closer living knowledge than we might have. However, we are still required to be as well informed about the person's living habits as possible and remember that any decision we might make should be based on the type/level of care needed to keep that person safe.

Be aware that there are highly trained experts who have the necessary experience to help you make these choices. These are tough decisions and ones that you should make after becoming as well informed as possible. Regardless, it is a tough call and there are resources that can help you.

Contact Helping Seniors at 321-473-7770, at www.HelpingSeniorsofBrevard.org, or at P.O. Box 372936, Satellite Beach, FL 32937.

Crime

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session of a controlled substance without a prescription, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Norman Leroy Scott, 29, of Merritt Island, was arrested on May 25 on a charge of driving while license suspended habitual offender.

Brandon Lendarrius Shaw, 29, of West Monroe LA., was arrested on May 25 on a charge of violation of carrying a concealed weapon in a specific location.

Shawn Carl Thomas, 35, of Melbourne, was arrested on May 25 on charges of possession of a controlled substance without a pre-

scription, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Christine Marie Thompson, 48, of Cape Canaveral, was arrested on May 25 on a charge of aggravated domestic violence battery.

Devin Matthew Adkins, 20, homeless, was arrested on May 24 on charges of malicious burning of land, and felony violation of probation.

Matthew Lloyd Church, 48, homeless, was arrested on May 24 on charges of battery of a law enforcement officer, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, resisting an officer with violence as simple assault, and resisting an officer without violence.

Llewellyn Randall Shane Dixon, 37, of

Stuart, was arrested on May 24 on a charge of aggravated battery, and home invasion robbery without a weapon.

Raul Jeremy Gonzalez, 38, of Huntsville AL., was arrested on May 24 on charges of conspiracy to traffic in a controlled substance, trafficking in more than 4 grams of fentanyl, possession of drug paraphernalia, and felony violation of probation.

Jacqueline Annette Hall, 39, of Titusville, was arrested on May 23 on a charge of unlicensed carry of a concealed firearm.

Michael Earl Landrum, 40, of Cape Canaveral, was arrested on May 24 on charges of conspiracy to traffic in a controlled substance, and possession of a weapon by a convicted felon.

Keith Michael Sarr, 49, of Cocoa, was

arrested on May 24 on charges of driving while license suspended habitual offender, and felony violation of probation on site.

Kelly Broderick Sellers, 52, of Mims, was arrested on May 24 on a charge of driving while license suspended habitual offender.

Freddy Dwayne Thomas, 41, of Merritt Island, was arrested on May 23 on a charge of driving while license suspended with knowledge 3rd or subsequent offense.

Cedric Lee Williams, 39, of Cocoa, was arrested on May 24 on charges of cocaine possession, and possession of drug paraphernalia with residue.

Kristopher David Wright, 25, of Melbourne, was arrested on May 24 on charges of battery of a person 65 years of age or older, and disorderly conduct breach of the peace.

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