Scenario

Complete a sample Court Visitor’s Report only if you do not have a writing sample you wish to submit. Please add your own facts as necessary to complete the report.

Respondent is Maria Thomas, a frail, 82-year-old, Spanish-speaking widow. The physician’s letter indicates she has dementia although she presents very well during your interview. She lives at home with the aid of a caretaker, George Henderson, a middle-aged male. Maria relies on a walker and needs help doing anything that involves standing or balancing. She has two adult daughters, Rhonda Anderson and Susan Thomas-Smith, who live in Denver. Respondent’s home is in a very nice part of town, but the interior is derelict and in disrepair. You see heaps of frozen food boxes when you enter. She believes things are just fine as they are and is most concerned about staying in her own home.

Rhonda, who is petitioning to be the guardian, is concerned her mother is too reliant on and being taken advantage of by George. Rhonda wishes to hire a different professional caregiver to provide in-home care. She suspects that George spends most of the day watching television and being online (her mom recently subscribed to an extensive cable package, which is out of character) and little time cooking, cleaning, and helping Maria. Although Maria has little savings, she has a generous monthly retirement benefit that would fund a professional caregiver. Rhonda does not have the time or desire to be a primary caregiver. She is most concerned that her mother is being cared for and not being taken advantage of.

George began taking care of Maria three years ago. He thinks the daughters do not visit enough, and he has grown to care for Maria. He receives an hourly wage for helping Maria. Maria frequently purchases him gifts when he takes her on errands. He enjoys his position – it pays well and is easy. Sometimes there are even the extra perks of the gifts.

Susan mostly supports Rhonda’s petition for guardianship. She fears that George is siphoning her mother’s funds. Susan does not want to hire another professional caregiver and considers it a waste of money. Susan also lacks the time and desire to be a primary caregiver. Her biggest concern is preserving her mother’s wealth.