

NOT FINAL UNTIL TIME EXPIRES  
TO FILE REHEARING MOTION  
AND, IF FILED, DISPOSED OF.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL  
OF FLORIDA  
THIRD DISTRICT  
JULY TERM A.D., 2004

THE ESTATE OF HELEN N. ETTING, \*\*  
by and through CHRISTIAN L.  
ETTING, Personal Representative, \*\*

Appellant,

\*\* CASE NO. 3D04-87

vs.

\*\*

REGENTS PARK AT AVENTURA, INC., \*\*

LOWER  
TRIBUNAL NO. 01-22126

Appellee.

\*\*

Opinion filed October 20, 2004.

An Appeal from a non-final order from the Circuit Court for  
Miami-Dade County, Henry Harnage, Judge.

Freidin & Brown, P.A., and Robert D. Brown, for appellant.

Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A., and Betsy E. Gallagher  
(Tampa), for appellee.

Before GREEN, FLETCHER, and WELLS, JJ.

PER CURIAM.

The plaintiff, Christian Etting, appeals from an order  
granting the defendant's, Regents Park at Aventura, Inc., motion  
to compel arbitration. The plaintiff argues that since the

decedent, his mother, was legally blind at the time that she signed the agreement with the nursing home, that the agreement and its arbitration clause are invalid. We disagree.

It has long been held in Florida that one is bound by his contract. Unless one can show facts and circumstances to demonstrate that he was prevented from reading the contract, or that he was induced by statements of the other party to refrain from reading the contract it is binding. No party to a written contract in this state can defend against its enforcement on the sole ground that he signed it without reading it.

Allied Van Lines, Inc. v. Bratton, 351 So. 2d 344, 347-8 (Fla. 1977) (citation omitted) (emphasis added). Here, the plaintiff failed to show that the decedent was coerced into signing the nursing home agreement or prevented by the defendant from knowing its contents. See Consol. Res. Healthcare Fund., Ltd. v. Fenelus, 853 So. 2d 500, 504 (Fla. 4<sup>th</sup> DCA 2003) ("A party normally is bound by a contract that the party signs unless the party can demonstrate that he or she was prevented from reading it or induced by the other party to refrain from reading it."); Merrill, Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc. v. Benton, 467 So. 2d 311, 312 (Fla. 5<sup>th</sup> DCA 1985) ("As a matter of law a party who voluntarily executed a document knowing it is intended to establish contractual relationships between the parties but without reading it is bound by its terms in the absence of coercion, duress, fraud in the inducement or some other independent ground justifying rescission.").

Accordingly, we affirm.