

January 16, 2016

To Whomever Will Protect the Developmentally Disabled,

Carolyn has been a resident at Rainier School since 2007. I am her guardian and sister. I have spent the last 23 years seeking proper and safe care for Carolyn.

Carolyn has the mental capability of a two year old. She requires constant care and monitoring. She cannot take care of her most basic needs and has a very limited vocabulary. She acts out to express anger, pain and frustration but cannot tell you she needs a drink of water. Carolyn has behaviors that are very difficult to manage: screaming, wiping feces around, falling to the floor in angry moods. Carolyn uses these behaviors to demand great amounts of time and attention from those around her.

Carolyn lived with our mother until age 36 when mom died in 1993.

**For 13 years Carolyn lived in:**

- Four private family homes for the developmentally disabled.
- A private care home in the country.
- A group home.
- Two adult family homes for senior citizens.

**During these years:**

- Carolyn had a broken arm, and a broken nose,
- She suffered a Narcoleptic Malignant Seizure caused by a drug overdose while in respite care. She was in hospital ICU for three weeks, went home from the hospital wheelchair bound and with a feeding tube. One side of her body was weakened and she has contractures in her hand.
- Multiple scratches and bruises often.
- Carolyn was resistant to having her teeth brushed, so her then guardian had all of her teeth removed.
- In one home Carolyn had a bedroom with a lock on the outside of her door (presumably to lock her in).
- In another Carolyn had a basement bedroom and was forced to stay in this room because she disturbed the family when with them.
- Another place Carolyn was cared for by a teenage boy and her caregivers boyfriend because the licensed caregiver was too busy with the senior citizens and said, "she could have anyone watch Carolyn as long as she ok'd it."
- Worst of all over those 13 years Carolyn was also raped and sexually molested multiple times by at least one individual. Due to Carolyn's inability to speak for

herself none of those people were ever convicted of a crime or even brought to trial.

In 2005 I was finally allowed to become Carolyn's guardian then in 2006 I brought her to live in my home hopefully for the rest of her life. Due to the fact that Carolyn and I are sisters, We did not qualify for respite care. I cared for Carolyn 24/7 with no breaks. Due to Carolyn's level of needs there was no one to give me some much needed rest.

After one year I was mentally and physically exhausted. Because of my mental state and feeling guilty for not being able to meet Carolyn's needs, I took Carolyn for a ride one December morning intending to commit suicide. At this point I knew I could no longer care for Carolyn on my own.

I placed Carolyn into a licensed care home. She stayed here for two and a half months. Once again she was overdosed with medications and went to the hospital ER. She could not be controlled, screaming, trying to break glass and self-injurious. From the ER Carolyn was taken by ambulance to Yakima General Hospital Psych Ward in Yakima. The closest place that would admit her. Five days later she was admitted to Yakima Valley School for the Handicapped. Two months later Carolyn was admitted to Rainier School and has resided here until the present.

For nine years now Carolyn has received medical treatment as needed. She has a team of doctor, nurse, psychologist, occupational therapist, physical therapist and pharmacy. This team meets every three months to reevaluate her needs. Her meds are adjusted very slowly and never has she had an overdose.

Carolyn lives in a home with a number of other residents. She is happy, physically healthy and well cared for. Carolyn receives respect from the staff as they allow her to make her own decisions as much as she is able. She goes on outings, shopping and out to eat. I see her at least once a month. I also take her on short vacations but, Carolyn is always happy to go home to Rainier School.

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