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My daughter Michelle is a 40 year-old developmentally disabled adult who is non-verbal and requires total care and therefore has to rely on others for all aspects of her daily life. The ~~more~~ nature of her disabilities make her extremely vulnerable, as such, she is easily persuaded. Fearing abuse at the hands of ~~her~~ caregivers, she often succumbs to the promptings, coercions, and manipulations of those individuals.

In 2010, Jefferson County Adult Protective Services (APS) hijacked my daughter's guardianship when they petitioned the court for temporary emergency guardianship based on false allegations manufactured by the North Metro Community Centered Board (CCB) and Wheat Ridge Regional Center. ~~The CCBs and Regional Centers, working in collaboration with APS, often uses guardianship removal proceedings to retaliate against families who aggressively advocate for their adult child against the abuse, neglect, and civil rights violations perpetrated by these agencies.~~

I was falsely accused of having a mental illness when no such diagnosis exists, being emotional abusive in spite of documented evidence to the contrary, and not allowing Michelle to attend college courses even though she was and is unable to pass the assessment requirements in the areas of math, reading and english.

I was never contacted by anyone from APS nor did I ~~not~~ receive a copy of the petition for the temporary emergency guardianship or notice of the hearing that would have allowed me to participate and defend myself from these false allegations. The court assumed since I did not attend I must be guilty. Falsely branded as an abuser, I am unable to visit with my own child.

~~This was all done without my knowledge or the opportunity to defend myself.~~ Since I didn't appear at the hearing, the court granted the petition. I only learned of this action when APS called to say they were taking over Michelle's guardianship and I would not be allowed to visit or communicate with her.

I petitioned the court, ~~through an attorney~~, for visitation and notification of changes in Michelle's medical condition. The court granted the petition and Michelle's court-appointment attorney stated Michelle agreed to these terms. Six months later, the guardian informs me that Michelle has changed her mind and no longer wants visits with me or for

me to have any information about her. It is important to note ~~that~~ the guardian did not seek a modification of the court order; she just opted to ignore ~~the order~~ 1 to

I was not notified when Michelle moved from the Regional Center to a Group Home in Longmont. Guardian claimed Michelle didn't want me to know where she was. ~~I found out from a friend who notified me that Michelle had moved to a Smart home in Longmont because of an article about it published in a local newspaper.~~

No one in our family has visited or communicated with Michelle in ^{almost} ~~close to~~ 6 years. The guardian does not notify me or any member of the family when Michelle has medical issues or is hospitalized. The only information we receive is ~~from~~ the annual guardianship report which we only started receiving in the last two years. We also receive no notice when the Guardian changes from one APS caseworker to another. I often don't even know who the Guardian is or how to contact them.

According to the most recent Guardianship report, Michelle was hospitalized in August for aspiration pneumonia, a condition that is often fatal for a disabled person. None of the family was notified of ~~this hospitalization or any other hospitalization~~ since APS has been ~~the~~ Guardian. Staff from the Group Home where ~~Michelle lives~~ have called a couple of ~~times~~ asking me to come visit Michelle stating that she had been asking for me, but the Guardian refuses to allow ~~any~~ visits. My other other children and grandchildren are afraid to visit ~~out~~ of fear they will be falsely accused of some misdeed.

~~APS's arrogation of power, when it comes to guardianship, seems unfettered by any limiting principle including court orders. APS acting as the guardian for an individual raises serious concerns about a conflict of interest, especially when the individual is receiving services from another state agency under the DHS umbrella. Only six other states allow APS to be appointed as guardian for a protected person because of this conflict of interest.~~

When Guardians take drastic steps to prohibit all visitations, the individual languishes in the nursing facility or group home, deprived of the love and care of their family and other social interaction in general. This inhumane treatment inflicted upon helpless individuals leads to untimely deaths hastened by thoughts of desertion and accompanied by total, abject fear, anxiety and depression, for which they are further drugged.