

STATE GUARDIANSHIP OF OUR MOTHER, MARGARET SCHIENKE

For three years, Waukesha County held our late mother in a highly suspect, involuntary state guardianship with protective placement. They claimed dementia, but we knew that diagnosis to be false or made by someone unqualified.

This wrongful custody was secured and maintained because:

- They called it an emergency to make her a ward in only 24 days; once done, it is a life sentence and irreversible.
- She was detained on a Ch 51 hold (mental illness) by police for her paranoid thoughts.
- A physician's assistant at Winnebago MHI, with no testing, diagnosed advanced dementia, March 15, 2022. With that, the social worker filed petitions for her institutionalization.
- A Mendota psychiatrist revised that diagnosis to a treatable psychosis and saw "no clear evidence of dementia." March 25, 2022. Several court officials were notified several times.
- It was pretended at the competency hearing that a revision of the dementia diagnosis by a medical practitioner never happened; she was convicted on dementia. April 7, 2022.
- The guardian ad litem waived all court appearances and filed reports on her dementia.
- A regular court psychologist who rarely/never visits wards submitted evaluations; one even said she did not know what season it was.
- All who were paid by her funds portrayed this untreated mental illness as dementia to preserve their financial exploitation of her estate.
- Ellen's directors called police to the facility twice to file negative reports before hearings.
- Family was maligned in their reports, probably for not believing this diagnosis.
- The prosecutor and GAL alluded often, without basis, to family's financial exploitation.

The care at Ellen's assisted living resulted in 18 ambulance runs in 2 years. The directors and her guardian told all health facilities our mother had dementia. They also told police this following an assault. Dementia is convenient for discrediting and diminishing the worth of their wards.

No rights for wards

These probate cases are closed hearings, no press or public allowed. Most times not even the ward is allowed. Hearings are a formality because the outcome is always to remain a ward.

- After our mother waited almost a whole year for a jury trial, the judge cancelled it at the last minute. The next public defender told the court it would not be necessary.
- She was not allowed at hearings, not even by the judge into three Zoom hearings.
- Visitation was banned at will knowing our visits supported her. The prosecutor himself set a 2 hr/week limitation in place for almost a year, with no valid explanation.
- The guardian had our mother on Cozaar for blood pressure for a whole year and a half, when she was never to be on this for a gastric bleeding condition. Ellen's director would just shrug her shoulders and sneer dismissively at our concerns.
- It was demoralizing to be at the complete mercy of her caretakers when she was so independent and functional in her life before. She worked and planned for a com-

fortable end of life--they took over her accounts, sold her house, and cancelled her health insurance of 23 years. Her ignored health care here was always "her fault." She needed dental work, replacement glasses for ones lost, new special hearing aids to replace ones lost on detainment--almost deaf, and continuing care for glaucoma. Now it's known the psychiatric care ordered by the Mendota psychiatrist was intentionally not done. The insider term for when a ward is put away and their assets drained is supposed to be "boxing." To our mother, it was exploitation.

- Ellen's is a very small building, and she was allowed to walk around in only half of it. The guardian never allowed her out of this building even once in 2 whole years "because the family might kidnap her." Our mother despised this existence. Their reports say she would enjoy her life there if family didn't interfere.
- Ellen's director told us our conversations were taped--evident from the content of the social worker's reports.
- The guardian was very patronizing and contemptuous to family--said that if we went to court, the judge would always side with her. She and Ellen's assisted living directors enjoyed their tyranny over us. Our mother was their hostage.

It was very difficult to free our mother. The prosecutor requested in a hearing once that we never have access to the medical records. Hearings for the many wards are run through in assembly-line fashion. Not a care is given to the suffering inflicted. Families have no more rights to their own parent than they do to the neighbor's dog. A ward is owned by the state, free to even use for experimentation.

Our mother outlived a ward's time of 2 years and was finally freed in June 2025, on the intervention of a private attorney and an independent psychiatrist. Opened medical records disclosed the specifics of this fraudulent commitment. The psychiatric evaluations of 2022 and 2025 with no evidence of dementia are a contrast to the court psychologists' evaluations in-between. Comprehensive videos during our mother's confinement demonstrate cognition.

It took time, persistence, money, and luck to win her freedom after 39 months. Almost \$680,000 of her money was spent and it took over \$201,000 in legal fees to free her. Not knowing how to go about this wasted much time. State agencies and politicians do not want to interfere. Filing a Writ of Habeas Corpus to the federal court on all her rights violations also garnered nothing, because guardianship is only the state's purview. Felons have more rights. There is no oversight and almost no recourse for wronged wards.

Tragically, there was always a lack of medical oversight. In two life-threatening events brought on by neglect, in Dec 2023 and March 2024, and with the guardian's dismissal of physical therapy afterwards, our mother went from ambulatory to completely bedridden in less than 4 months, by April 2024. She remained that way until her recent death in May 2026, finally ending all her suffering.

It is tragic that Waukesha County was in a position to truly help her, but chose not to. She was denied the psychiatric care ordered by the Mendota psychiatrist because this dementia ruse had to be maintained. Her family was always treated like the enemy, while they intentionally destroyed her life. She was never really free again. This was a pyrrhic victory.

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