

## BETTY (2015)

Betty\* was upset with the family member who had been her guardian for several years. While the family member had done nothing wrong, due to Betty's mental health issues, their relationship had become fractured. A petition was submitted to the court to find a professional guardian. When the professional guardian was appointed, Betty expressed that she felt that she could manage her life just fine without help. The professional guardian acknowledged Betty's feelings and explained that the judge wanted to try it for one year. The guardian was careful to preserve Betty's dignity and found reasons to praise Betty whenever she could.

The guardian worked with Betty to develop a financial budget and gave Betty a financial report every month. The guardian got a phone installed in Betty's home, filled out forms for housing and other services that would help improve Betty's life. The guardian also devised a way that Betty could get additional discretionary money easily when she needed it.

Over time, the guardian helped Betty with a number of goals such as getting Section 8 housing and, when Betty was having trouble remembering to take her medication on the weekends, the guardian offered to call her on the weekends to remind her, something Betty greatly appreciated.

Betty now tells all of her friends how much better her life is with a professional guardian. She has the freedom to live the way she wants to and has someone available who she can call whenever a problem arises.

*\*Name changed*