

Escaping Florida's Guardianship System: The Case of Jan Garwood

Source: Excerpts from "Florida woman works to get life back 2 years after escaping guardianship modified.pdf"

I. Initial Guardianship and Escape (Paragraphs 1-11)

- This section details Jan Garwood's initial placement under guardianship, highlighting the loss of her rights and control over her assets. It introduces Rebecca Fierle, her first guardian, and describes the circumstances leading to Garwood's confinement in a locked dementia unit. Garwood's use of a secret cell phone and social media to contact advocates and an attorney, ultimately leading to her escape, are emphasized.

II. Exploitation and Questionable Sale of Assets (Paragraphs 12-22)

- This part focuses on the financial exploitation Garwood experienced under her second guardian, Denise Willis. The controversial sale of Garwood's home to an employee of the assisted living facility, significantly below market value, is explored. The section also mentions the disappearance of Garwood's personal belongings and lack of communication from Willis regarding their whereabouts.

III. Regaining Freedom and the Fight for Accountability (Paragraphs 23-33)

- This section covers the process of Garwood regaining her rights through legal intervention and a new medical evaluation that proved her competency. It highlights the challenges she faces rebuilding her life with limited resources and the ongoing investigations into Willis' conduct. The revocation of Willis' registration as a guardian due to multiple violations is emphasized, along with Garwood's determination to help others avoid similar experiences.