

Timeline of Events:

2017:

- Jan Garwood is injured in a car accident while grieving the death of her son.
- A judge rules Garwood is incapacitated and places her under guardianship.
- Rebecca Fierle is appointed as Garwood's guardian.
- Fierle removes Garwood from her home.

Unknown Date (Between 2017 & 2020):

- Fierle resigns from all her cases after allegations of wrongdoing, including the death of a ward.
- Denise Willis is appointed as Garwood's new guardian.
- Willis sells Garwood's home to an employee of Garwood's assisted living facility for a significantly lower price than market value without a formal appraisal.
- Willis deposits \$171,000 from the home sale into a special needs trust Garwood cannot access.

2020:

- Garwood uses a secret cell phone to contact her son, Alex, and post on Facebook seeking help.
- Guardianship reform advocate Hillary Hogue connects Garwood with attorney Vito Roppo.
- Roppo files a motion for Garwood's re-evaluation.
- A doctor finds Garwood fully capable of managing her affairs.
- Garwood's guardianship is terminated, and she regains her rights.
- Garwood moves into an apartment with Alex and his girlfriend.

September 2022:

- The Seminole County Inspector General's Office investigates Willis, finding multiple violations, including the undervalued sale of Garwood's car and misappropriation of Social Security income.

April 2023:

- The Florida Office of Public and Professional Guardians revokes Willis' registration due to violations found in six cases.

Present:

- Garwood continues to rebuild her life, advocating for guardianship reform to prevent others from experiencing similar hardships.

Cast of Characters:

Jan Garwood: A 73-year-old woman who was placed under guardianship following a car accident and the death of one of her sons. She fought to regain her freedom and is now an advocate for guardianship reform.

Alex Garwood: Jan Garwood's son who helped her escape guardianship by sneaking her a cell phone. He currently lives with his mother.

Rebecca Fierle: Jan Garwood's first guardian, later removed and charged with felonies related to the death of a ward under her care.

Denise Willis: Jan Garwood's second guardian, whose registration was revoked for multiple violations, including financial mismanagement and failure to protect the well-being of her wards.

Hillary Hogue: A guardianship reform advocate who connected Garwood with legal representation.

Vito Roppo: An attorney who represented Garwood and successfully fought for the termination of her guardianship.