

George A. Dawson MD

Abilene, TX.

June 26, 2014

Sunset Commission, State of Texas

Re: Abilene State Supported Living Center

Dear Commissioners:

My daughter, Dell "Nan" Dawson, has been a resident of Abilene State School now known as Abilene State Supported Living Center since Oct 1974, due to profound mental retardation related to Angelman's syndrome. She has always received excellent care from very competent compassionate caregivers. Our Nan has a very challenging situation due to her impulsive behavior requiring constant attention during her waking hours.

I worked at Abilene State School as a physician in 1957 before she was eligible to be admitted; so I am very aware of the challenges of providing proper care for this very fragile population. I continue to practice Palliative and Hospice medicine and frequently care for individuals with similar disabilities in the community homes in our area. My observations are that my daughter's disability would require more attention than could be provided at any of our local community homes as they are now operated.

Recommendations:

1. Please continue to be aware of the special needs of this very fragile population
2. I recommend that the doors to the dorms be locked to prevent the escape of residents. This could reduce the number of caretakers required for the constant observation of the front door. I keep my front door locked and I have a hunch you keep your front door locked as well.

Sincerely,



George A. Dawson MD