

My name is Virginia Pritchett. I am from Mineral Wells.

I am testifying on behalf of my elderly friend Denise Tighe, who died in January of 2014 while under state care.

Denise was an immigrant from Switzerland. She was a manager of a French bank on Wall Street in the 1950's and a very wealthy lady who never wanted to go into a nursing home. After Denise was diagnosed with a bladder infection which was curable but causes dementia problems in the elderly, her wealth would prove to be her downfall.

Her doctor wrote a note asking for home help for her and sent it to adult protective services. But after Adult Protective Services received it, they forced Denise out of her home. She was rarely able to see her beloved pets or her friends again. She was carried out of her home screaming, "I don't want to go!" with her neighbors looking on horrified.

Denise was forced to spend the next two years of her life in a nursing home, simply because she failed to make out a will. She could afford to pay for 24 hour a day home help until she died if she had been given this choice, but this option was never given to her.

~~Her money was divided between a cruel guardian attorney and others. The attorney wanted to kill her pets even though they were not ill, simply because he was tired of dealing with them.~~

I have a copy of Dallas CBS news video text in which this attorney is interviewed on the matter. I asked this guardian if Denise could go home and he informed me that Denise's property was going up for sale. When I questioned the cruel manner in which Denise was removed from her property, he told

me he had seen people "handcuffed and strapped down". It was clear to see the manner in which my friend was treated was of no concern to this man, who was supposed to be helping my friend.

My friend was denied visitors for Christmas two years in a row by her guardians. She was denied visitors the entire Christmas week. The reason being personnel could not sit with her as they would be with their own families. Once my Mother and I went to visit Denise on an impromptu visit, she had been taken to a hospital, not expected to live. No one had been called not even her only sister. My friend lay alone, dying.

I complained to the politician's offices and went to media about the neglect of my friend because complaints to ombudsman and hospital personnel were getting me nowhere. Department of Aging guardians soon placed visitation restrictions on Denise punishing her and the friends who stood up for her. The weekend my friend died, those unreasonable restrictions were in place. Myself, her sister, and her sister's caregiver were made to wait three days for an appointment to see her, even though medical personnel knew she was dying. My friend ended up dying without her sister or friends with her as a result of DADS guardians' poor decision in not lifting the visitation rule.

I also have the text of a Dallas Fox News video I would like to hand over to anyone who is interested. This guardianship law may have been passed to help people, but instead it enables the greedy to take full financial advantage of the elderly.

My friend was never able to spend a day in her home again, simply because she had lots of money.