

CASE STUDY: Mary

Background

Mary is a 13 year old female with severe mental retardation (functioning at a 6-9 month level) and cerebral palsy. She is wheelchair bound. She received a significant monetary settlement and a trust fund was established for her needs. Mary lived in a trailer park with her parents and 3 siblings. Home conditions were poor with running water available intermittently, extremely cramped conditions, and very little stimulation for the child. Mary slept in a bed with her older sibling. Medical conditions included seizure disorder, severe scoliosis, no functional use of her arms or legs, no ability to communicate verbally and cortical blindness. Overall weight was 55 lbs. School attendance was sporadic at best. Mary's parents were frequently overwhelmed by her needs.

Rehab Assist Management / Interventions

Rehab Assist was asked to complete a full assessment addressing all of the needs for this disabled child. They were also asked to provide ongoing case management services.

Results:

- Rehab Assist assisted family in successful purchase and modification of a new residence for the child.
- Coordinated and acquired a specialized wheelchair for the child at a significant discount.
- Coordinated/acquired specialized bedding to alleviate "bed sores" for Mary at a significant discount.
- Obtained discounts for all medical supplies including diapers, feeding pump and tube feedings.

- Hired and currently supervise caregiver staff for the child. Negotiated services saving the child's trust over \$7,000 per year. Oversee job performance. Coordinated payroll with trust officer.
- Facilitated increased attendance in special education program to 95%.
- Acquired and coordinated home physical therapy services at a discounted rate.
- Attend school special education staffing and coordinate needs with home care team.
- Coordinated installation of wheelchair lifts in home.
- Coordinated purchase of modified vehicle, after acquiring multiple estimates for probate court.
- Established consistent budget for child including equipment, supplies, therapy, food, clothing and vacation funds.
- Provide ongoing support and monitoring of both client's and parent's needs.

Current Status

Mary currently resides in a completely accessible 4 bedroom home with her family. She receives caregiver services on a daily basis. Her attendance in a special education program is 95-100%. A fully modified van transports her to all community activities and physician appointments. She sleeps in a specialized bed preventing bed sores. Mary has gained 30 lbs. and receives tube feedings regularly. Frequent hospitalizations due to choking have been eliminated and her weight has increased significantly.

She participates daily in special education and is provided with occupational, physical and speech therapies. She receives physical therapy one time per week at home. Mary's parents are extremely pleased with her current caregiver and school environment.

Rehab Assist provides the level of professional expertise, support and compassion necessary to successfully manage disabled guardianship issues.

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