

**Report of the Guardian of the Person
For the Minor
Mr. A
October 4, 2001**

Introduction:

This is a summary report for Mr. A. Mr. A is now an 18 year old male who resides with his mother, Margaret. Mr. A's date of birth is 9/3/83. Case management services have been provided for Mr. A by Rehab Assist, Inc. since May 10,1999. Rehab Assist, Inc. (specifically, Buddy Brennan) was appointed guardian of the person to Mr. A on February 13, 2001. This appointment was due to Mrs. A's poor health and diagnosis of cancer.

Summary of Activities of the Guardian:

Since my appointment as Case Manager/Guardian, a number of duties and tasks have been overseen in relation to Mr. A's overall well being. Activities include attending numerous school conferences, phone contacts with school personnel and counselors, daily counseling with Mr. A and his family members regarding problem solving for various issues in the house. Those issues included problems with budgeting, phone use, strategies to improve communication and strategies to address certain behaviors presented by Mr. A. Daily phone or personal contact occurred with Mr. A regarding various life decisions, involving school, finances, psychiatric treatment and appropriate social functioning. Details of all contacts have been provided to the court in monthly billing reports.

Summary of Status:

Residence

Mr. A is now 18 years of age. He continues to live in his mother's residence; however this will not be an option for residence within the next 1-2 months. Mrs. A is making plans to move in with her daughter, Susan, who is moving to a condominium in Tinley Park, IL.

Physical Health

Mr. A is experiencing no significant physical problems at this time. He is a smoker, smoking between 1-2 packs per day.

Mental Health

Mr. A continues to require psychiatric medication on a regular basis. He attended an out-patient program at Meadowbrook Hospital to stabilize his mood in February and March of this year. He completed the program resulting in less depression. Mr. A continues to see Dr. Smith, MD and is medicating daily with Celexa.

Independent Living Skills

Mr. A is able to complete the following tasks independently: daily hygiene, dressing, driving a car, cooking or purchasing food for daily consumption, phone communication, navigating directions, communication with peers or adults, laundry and ironing, home cleaning and basic hot meal preparation. The areas of independent living that Mr. A requires assistance with are money management and decision making with choices for spending. He also requires guidance and assistance with life problem solving situations. Mr. A lacks the appropriate level of maturity for his age. It is important to note that Mr. A acknowledges the need for adult assistance and guidance in these areas.

Education

Mr. A has completed his education through the 9th grade. He dropped out of Edgebrook High School in the spring, 2001. He has been strongly encouraged to pursue a GED by the guardian; he has not yet made plans for obtaining that degree.

Work History

Mr. A currently is involved in a work trial with a clothing store as a part-time sales clerk and stock person. Mr. A has had only fair success in holding positions in the past with various employers. Mr. A does state a desire to work on a regular basis. The guardian believes that Mr. A's limited education, ongoing psychiatric issues and his immaturity have been a detriment to vocational success.

Socialization Skills

Mr. A does have a group of friends that he associates with on a regular basis. Some attend school, while others are working full time. Mr. A has gotten "himself into trouble" in the last year by having misdemeanor charges brought against him due to property damage. Mr. A did apologize to the family, however, the state did require a legal hearing for this event. At this hearing, the guardian requested the assistance of a public defender for purposes of immediate legal service. A court date was set for late December of this year. The guardian recognizes that if legal services are necessary, Mr. A has the assets to pay for these services. The state's attorney did state that there was a high probability that all charges would be dropped. Other than this incident, Mr. A has avoided legal issues for the most part.

Family Environment

Mr. A currently lives with his mother, Margaret, and his sister, Amy. Mrs. A is ill and has a diagnosis of cancer. She has completed various courses of treatment and apparently the disease has not progressed at this point. Amy will soon be moving from the residence and plans to also have Mrs. A reside with her. This will create the need for Mr. A to obtain his own residence.

There has been some discussion about Mr. A assuming ownership of his mother's home at the time of his 18th birthday (from Mrs. A). I, the guardian, strongly discouraged this, as Mr. A is not ready to assume this level of responsibility.

Recommendations

I have provided case management and guardianship services for this young man for the last two years on an almost daily basis. Mr. A has struggled with various issues including the lack of a male role model in his life, dealing with attention deficit disorder and various psychiatric problems. His mother has been unable to provide the strong parenting required by Mr. A due to her own psychiatric issues, lack of insight and her own medical problems. Mr. A, in many instances, has stubbornly made poor decisions in his life (dropping out of school) and tossed away helpful advice from the guardian/case manager. Despite these issues, it is important to clarify that Mr. A is a good person, with good intentions. Mr. A does learn life's lessons but requires assistance and repetition to learn about doing "the right thing". He focuses (and obsesses) about things (cars, clothes, spending money) that many 18 year olds do. As stated previously, Mr. A has basically cared for himself over the last year due to his mother's incapacity. He has obtained many independent life skills including dressing, laundry, ironing, cooking, home cleaning, food preparation, shopping and driving. Mr. A is not ready to manage large sums of money or make major life decisions. He has difficulty solving problems. He does recognize the difference between right and wrong and obeying the law or paying the consequences. Mr. A. is not a threat to himself or others. It is important to note that Mr. A recognizes his need for help in financial areas and has asked for continued assistance with these matters. Mr. A does understand the basic differences between a trust and a guardianship. His preference is to participate in a trust with trustees providing him the parameters of a regular budget and assistance with decisions involving larger sums of money.

After much thought and research regarding Mr. A's options, it is my strong belief that Mr. A remains in need of additional training and/or schooling to capably manage his own life. This was demonstrated recently when Mr. A was unable to problem solve a trip to an emergency room and expressed a fear of "not knowing how to fill out the papers". Mr. A is immature for his age. He has successfully avoided school and any other training programs through manipulation of an ill and overwhelmed mother. By successfully avoiding school and residential programs, Mr. A has not developed and matured to an 18 year old level. The end result is a young man who wants and desires adult things, yet has not acquired the skills of decision making, problem solving and diligence which are required in the adult world.

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My opinion is that Mr. A desperately needs additional education or training before he is given a trust. I believe Mr. A can be his own guardian ultimately, but successful completion of a residential program, vocational program or school program should be a prerequisite to establishing Mr. A as his own guardian. Even in recent weeks when Mr. A was well aware of the pending question of his guardianship, he was unable to "rise to the occasion". Rather than demonstrating greater independence, Mr. A regressed into the impulsive behaviors and poor judgments demonstrated in the last few years.

I have a high regard for this young man and it is for this reason I make these recommendations. I am certain they will create great consternation for Mr. A. I will gladly accept the task of arranging programming which upon its completion will allow Mr. A the opportunity have control of a trust.

Mr. A has asked me to continue to work with him as a trustee with the bank in this situation, and I will agree to this based on the court's recommendations. Mr. A will need a detailed budget, weekly spending parameters, and limits and reviews of any expenditures over a specified amount. He requires ongoing psychiatric care. Mr. A will also need immediate funds for apartment rental, purchase of furniture and funds for his own automobile upon earning his own guardianship. Whether as trustee or guardian, I will continue to recommend an ongoing work routine for Mr. A and involvement in furthering his education and training.

This report is submitted to the court for its review and hopes it can provide some assistance in the decision regarding guardianship for Mr. A.

Respectfully submitted,

Buddy Brennan, MS, SLP, CCM
Case Manager/Guardian
Rehab Assist, Inc.