James Dryer (Detroit, MI)—Older Adult under guardianship

I am writing on behalf of my cousin James Dryer. He is 73 years old and has had a Limited Guardian and Full Conservator for 6 years. He lives in Detroit, MI. He recently was removed from his home and has been in Adult Foster Care for the past 3 months.

When I requested James' guardianship in 2014, I was unaware of the far-reaching impact a guardianship would have on James' life. I had hoped a guardian would give him the opportunity to remain in his home with the help of a housekeeper and conservator.

After the death of his 92 year old father James had no-one to give him guidance on handling and managing his home and finances. Though James has not been officially diagnosed I think he is high functioning autism or Asperger's. James has never had any psychological tests done of his abilities or to determine if he is on proper medication for his disorder. If people got to know James they would see he is higher functioning than he appears.

After his first year under guardianship, the guardian began talking about removing him from his home. There was no attempt to arrange for training in self-management of his home. The home care the guardian provided was inadequate but James continued to live a simple life as that of a bachelor or college student with a different definition of clean.

The conservator did not his pay bills on time causing late fees and shut off notices. After 4 years James broke the oil pan on his car which totaled his car. Now with no transportation he had to depend more on the guardian for shopping and medical care. Then the guardian changed his housekeeper. The new housekeeper complained about James and said she didn't want to work with him and refused to take him on errands. The agency said they could not find anyone to clean for him so James needed to be removed from his house. Luckily James had the phone number of his old housekeeper. She agreed to help him out if he paid her cash. Then COVID came. The housekeeper quit coming. On May 2021 they removed James from his house on Glendale. The Guardian is still late in paying his bills and shut off notices come in the mail. Meanwhile James wants to go home and his house sits empty on Glendale.