My name is Kalei Bulwinkle. I am 21 years old. I live in Guyton, Georgia just outside of Savannah. I was diagnosed with Asperger's when I was 10 years old. I was put under guardianship and conservatorship when I was 18 years old. At the time, I thought my mom was protecting me and I was okay with that. I wanted her help. I liked that my mom could help me.

Things I did not like were the judge taking away my voting rights and at one point tried to take my driver's license from me. My mom was trying to teach me how to be an adult by teaching me how to manage my money and what was important. The judge did not like me having a debit card to put gas in my car. She also did not understand why my mom was having me save money for tuition and car insurance. I wanted to go to school, but she said we spent my money on anything.

I did not feel that the judge treated me like a human. She never talked to me. I felt like the judge did not know what she was doing and always changed her mind. She was always trying to use her power to scare us. My doctor also felt I needed my rights back, but the judge would not listen to him either. My mom cried so many times telling me she was sorry that she did this to me.

It took my lawyer at the Georgia Advocacy Office and my mom two years to get my guardianship removed.

I am now working full-time and going to college. I now manage my money and make decisions with just my parents help now. I am also now a registered voter again.

I would like to ask that you make guardianship the last option for others. They need to have a chance to make decisions on their own first. Guardianship took away everything from me. It needs to be the very last option and only if the judges are educated in the law. It was not in my case.

Thank you for allowing me to speak with you regarding my negative experience with guardianship. Please say no to guardianships.