Sarah Carmany (Kalamazoo MI)—Avoided appointment of a Guardian

Hi my name is Sarah Carmany. I'm 36 years old. I live in Kalamazoo, Michigan. I grew up in a rural area called Climax, Michigan, which is stuck between Calhoun county and Kalamazoo county. I've got autism spectrum disorder and I'm an independent self-determined individual. I live in my own apartment and I cook, and clean, and keep myself up on my own. But I do have a representative payee to help me budget out my money cause I need help with that. I do have a circle of support where I can talk about big decisions like going back to school and driving ect.

I've never ever been under guardianship. At least I don't remember my parents going to court and obtaining guardianship probably because its too expensive and my mom always taught me at a very young age to be independent and self-determined. I don't know if the school ever told my parents that I have to be put under guardianship or not. I do know that my parents went to IEP meetings in elementary and intermediate school. But starting in Junior high all the way through high school I was attending my IEP meetings all on my own without mom and dad. My mom bailed out leaving me to do it all by myself. I was able to avoid guardianship cause my parents never messed with going to court.

Life without a guardian can be hard especially when I did my IEPs on my own during the last part of my grade school days. The school did what they wanted. As an adult other people's guardians would try to tell me what to do and try to make decisions for me and try telling me what to do even when they aren't a leagalized guardian over me. I dislike that with a passion.