

Dear Senator Romanchuk

I am contacting you in regards to Disability Rights Ohio (DRO) activities. I have been notified they reached out and spoke to my 25 year old daughter Destanie without my permission. Destanie is currently in an ICF facility. I have raised my daughter her whole life and have been my daughter's legal guardian since she turned 18. My daughter is physically 25 but mentally she is 8. My daughter has no idea what is good for her which is why she has a guardian and DRO shouldn't be allowed speaking to her without my permission.

My daughter has been diagnosed with mild MR, Autism and bipolar with psychosis. I want to give you some information to explain why the ICF facility she is in is absolutely imperative to her having a good quality of life.

While raising Destanie I was told we could try first putting her in a day habitation center Monday through Friday 8am to 2pm after she graduated high school. When that didn't work and we were still experiencing difficulties her case worker from Licking County DD then said in addition to her day hab we could have someone come in our home 5 hours a week to help with Destanie. Destanie would run away from the person that helped 5 hours a week and after a couple months of trying we stopped that assistance. Destanie continue to become more difficult to the point it was dangerous for her and everyone in our home.

After several inpatient hospital stays and asking for help I was advised the next step would be to put her in a group home with 3 other women. There would be 2 employees at the home during the day and 1 in the evening. This setting after 1 year became obvious not the right setting. During the 1 year I was provided dozens and dozens of incidents reports of Destanie being physically aggressive with employees. There are many times Destanie ran away. Many times with Destanie hurting herself. There are dozens of times cops were called. Towards the end of her stay the police threatened Destanie to arrest her if they had to be called again. One time Destanie took off and one employee got in her car to go find her and destanie was behind the car and was ran over and her foot broken. Destanie was having multiple behaviors a day because she was not on a very strict schedule and regiment which I had advised the employees many times. After multiple times of employees being trained and things getting worse I was then advised of what an ICF was and how it was available.

The first year Destanie was at the ICF she had behaviors until she got use to their schedule and regiment. During the second and third year Destanie behaviors have reduced in number to the point she went almost a full 12 months with no behavior. She is now visibly happy and she can have a mother daughter relationship with me. I am able to pick her up and have small outings to a restaurant and a little shopping at 1 store. The ICF is able to provide the 24 hour care to keep her and others safe and on a very strict regiment. All employees show so much compassion, care and love for the residences. Absolutely the best thing to happen to Destanie and her quality of life. If the ICF was not available Destanie would be back in either our home or a group home that can't provide the strict 24/7 care that she needs. When Destanie has behaviors she does things like lock me in the basement, pull knives on myself and her siblings. Destanie has been found sitting on a resident in their sleep with scissors to their neck. Destanie has to be cared for 24/7 in a very strict and regimented facility with a nurse on staff to help with medicines and health complaints.

Thank you for taking the time to read about my concerns. I hope I have given you some information that shows how important and ICF facility is to my daughter.

Sincerely

Tammy Richardson

Please let me know if you need anything further.