

disAbility Law Center of Virginia



Transcript to video. Thank you Sandra for sharing your experiences working with dLCV on your guardianship and advance directive cases.

www.dlc.org

Voice off camera: Okay, Sandra how did you first hear about the disAbility Law Center?

Sandra: I believe it was at the hospital at Marion and Attorney Gray was there for the first time. I knew I that I was in a situation that it might help if I get some legal advice. He came back to me and said we do have a case. So it brought hope to me the whole time I was in the hospital. It made me want to get more better than I was. I wanted to get better, be better than I was. That offered me hope.

We went to court against my brother and my mother. And when I was doing it, it was the very hardest thing I've ever done in my whole entire life. But it turned out that the judge...

Voice off camera: The judge restored your rights and said you didn't need a guardian.

Sandra: Right he restored my rights and said I didn't need a guardian. I was just so happy that day.

Voice off camera: So after your guardianship petition by your family was dismissed, I understand that you were discharged from the hospital shortly thereafter. Is that correct?

Sandra: That's correct! [laughter]

Voice off camera: Then you and Attorney Gray did an Advance Directive. What does that Advance Directive do for you?

Sandra: Well it gives me a voice when, you when I am out of it, when I am not able to talk on my own. So it's a piece of paper that tells them to call my aunt. She will know tell you what needs to be done. I designated my aunt to help me instead of my family. And so...

Voice off camera: So you can prevent any future attempts to override your preferences.

Sandra: Right, to prevent another guardianship or other legal things that could happen. I feel relieved that that's taken care of and that's what that Advance Directive is for. It is to take care of you and it is the best you can do for yourself.