

Melissa Sweet

Judiciary 10/4/23 HB'S
4909, 4910, 4911, 4912,
5047

From: CYNTHIA MIFSUD <cynthia_mifsud@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 12:12 AM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: Judiciary meeting

Melissa Sweet,

I will be at the Judiciary meeting on Wednesday October 4th at 10:30 and wish to give testimony about my experience with guardianship concerning my mother. I am including my speech and it will take less than 3 minutes to read. I think it's important to hear from victims and not just law makers and the attorney general's office. I am a real person who has experienced the nightmare that is guardianship.

This is my speech: Hi my name is Cynthia Mifsud in 2013 I was appointed durable power of attorney for both of my parents. In 2019 my siblings and I made the difficult decision to move my parents into our home because they were both suffering from dementia and it was no longer safe for them to live alone.

Fast forward to May 1, 2021 my father has passed away and my niece takes my Mother while I was out of town visiting a sick relative and refuses to return her.

I had no idea how broken Michigans Probate court system was and foolishly filed for guardianship of my Mother. The guardian ad lidem assigned to the case refused to speak to me or my brothers, and refused to visit my home where my mother had lived for over two years.

My niece got restraining orders so she could isolate and control our mother. She then created and notarized a revocation of my power of attorney and had my mother sign it then presented it to my mothers bank and attempted to access her Trust. My niece changed my mothers address with social security and cashed my mothers social security check and pension check without fiduciary powers.

Within 3 months my mother was hospitalized with sepsis from an untreated uti and had lost 23 pounds. Judge Freddie Burton jr. still refused to return my mother to her home and continued to isolate her from 3 of her 4 children and our families.

I have over \$200,000 in legal fees fighting for my Mother, she was isolated for over 14 months from 3 of her 4 children and our families. My mother has a guardian ad lidem, a court appointed attorney, a guardian who has an attorney, and they are all asking to be paid from my Mothers trust.

There is nothing about protection in Probate court it is used to profit off the elderly and disabled. Loving families are vilified and completely destroyed. They ignore estate plans in place and appoint public guardians who take the estate.

I support these new bills but the biggest problem with probate court is there is no oversight or accountability and until there is you can have all the laws you want but if they are ignored nothing will change and our most vulnerable will continue to suffer.

The end of speech

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cynthia Mifsud