30/6/2015

ACT Law Reform Advisory Council
The Australian National University
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This information was prepared with the support of Hermarnee Perry advocate from ADACAS. The client is a 33 year old female who is under guardianship and financial management. The guardianship was put in place 12/5/2015. There was an application for guardianship by two different parties. The client wanted her aunty to be her guardian and this was the outcome. The other applicant was a person that she did not want any contact with and was the initial reason for ADACAS’s involvement. Financial management is through her mother who resides in QLD and management is through the QLD system. This management has been in place for a long but unknown period of time.

My client feels that she makes her own decisions and that she needs support to do this. She finds it hard to communicate with people. She explained that she becomes frightened, scared and is shy when in big groups. This makes it difficult for her as her mind goes blank and she doesn’t know what to say. When decisions need to be made she can feel very stressed and cry due to the pressure she feels.

Sometimes when people ask her questions she doesn’t understand. This is frustrating for her. She doesn’t want to hurt people’s feelings and so can’t always ask questions to get clarification for what they are asking. She is concerned about hurting others feelings and has used others to communicate her wishes. Verbal confrontation is very stressful for her.

She is happy having her aunty as her guardian. She feels that she supports her well and that they have good communication. She has made decisions about where she wants to live, who are her friends, what she does with her time, who provides support.

One decision that she did express concern about was about what she eats. Currently her support workers have decided that she needs to lose weight and are not allowing her to buy biscuits and cakes. She would like to lose weight but feels she is not being involved in the decision. We discussed about talking to her support worker about how she is feeling. She said she doesn’t to hurt her feelings.

At times she gets embarrassed talking to her mother. But for the most part they have a good relationship and likes the fact that she always has money and if she needs anything she has money for it. She feels that she can approach her mother regarding her money.

There was a discussion about what supported decision making training could offer her. She was not interested in this as she is comfortable how things are.

Regards

Hermarnee Perry
Advocate