



Guardianship

Meet the People We Help...

Problem

Tom, who lived in an institution, had a mild cognitive disability, and he also battled bipolar disorder and a condition called polydipsia, which caused him to drink fluids excessively and compromised his body's electrolyte levels. He also was frequently aggressive and had an explosive temper. Because he had to deal with all of these issues, Tom faced a complex treatment regimen. Tom's dysfunctional family often attempted to thwart his caregivers' efforts, compounding the problem. Guardianship needed to step in to ensure that Tom was receiving appropriate care.

Solution

Thanks to Guardianship case workers' advocacy, Tom finally began to receive the care that he needed to treat his conditions. The schizophrenia drug Clorazil virtually eliminated Tom's aggressive outbursts, and his other conditions were successfully managed by his physicians.

Outcome

Tom was able to leave the institution and move into a group-home setting where he receives individualized attention. He also works at a part-time job and no longer has an issue with excessive fluid consumption. "Without us having authority and the ability to advocate for his best interests, Tom probably would have been dead by now," one of his caseworkers says.