

Please Vote Yes to Reduce the Waiting List for Comprehensive Residential Services for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Colorado.

Name: Marietta Stephenson  
Colo. Spgs.  
Zip code: 80920



About my family: We are a family of 5. We have a dog, a cat and some fish. My husband works a full time job and I am a full time household engineer. 2 of our 3 adult children have special needs. Our daughter was born with Tuberous Sclerosis Complex and our youngest son was in a car crash and suffered a life altering brain injury.

About my son or daughter with IDD: Our daughter Chelynne is the one I would like to tell you about. She suffers from seizures, will probably never have a job because of behaviors related to Tuberous Sclerosis complex. She functions at anywhere from a 5 to 13 year old level, depending on the situation. Her behaviors are becoming increasingly difficult.

Why we need this resource to plan for the future of our family:

Karl and I are getting older. As I mentioned above, Chelynne's behaviors are becoming more difficult. Chelynne has been on the waiting list for more than 10 years. As parents, we would like to make sure Chelynne will be taken care of after we die. Our typical son is willing to take over guardianship, but he has a family of his own and Chelynne's behaviors make home life volatile at best. She needs a life outside of her nuclear family. We would like that to be taken care of before we are no longer able to do it ourselves.

Anything else?: We love our daughter, but we need a break, and frankly, so does she. The arguments in our home make life very unpleasant. I suffer from depression, and our son with the brain injury avoids being around us when we argue, which is most days now. Please vote yes to reduce the waiting list. Ours and many other families will appreciate it.

Thank you,  
Etta Stephenson