What I Wish I Would Have Known….

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Court Visitor Filing Requirements

- Sealed documents
  - Medical records
  - Financial records
- Professional evaluation
- CV report

Request Professional Evaluation and Financial Records ASAP!

- These docs, especially the Professional Evaluation, are the ones you will likely have to hunt down. Request them as soon as you are appointed!
  - Be persistent
  - The approximate 45 days you have to conduct your investigation and write your report will fly by
  - You might want to get a fax number

Social Workers: Use them!

- Social workers at the facility are a huge help
  - Getting the professional evaluation
  - Helping you understand the lay of the land: family, past experiences, etc.

Adult Protective Services

- APS records are often more than what you bargained for
- Be sure to request specific documents so that you don't end up with thousands of pages!
  - Comprehensive Summaries
- Request the docs early; send request to APSPublicRecords@dshs.wa.gov
- Need Respondent's Date of Birth

What Are All These Acronyms?

- DDA: Developmental Disabilities Administration
- DSHS: Department of Social and Health Services
- OPG: Office of Public Guardianship
- CPG: Certified Professional Guardian
- ABLE Account: “A Better Life Experience”
- SSI: Supplemental Security Income
- SSDI: Social Security Disability Insurance
- Rep Payee: Representative Payee for SSI/SSDI benefits
- DDCS: Developmental Disability Community Services
- AFH: Adult Family Home

Respondent's Best Interest

- Unfortunately, not all parties have the Respondent's best interest at heart
  - Financial interests
  - Exerting control
  - Making assumptions

You Can Call for Backup

- More experienced CVs or guardianship lawyers can be a great resource if you're feeling unsure about a case
- You can reach out to the petitioning attorney if necessary
- You will be assigned a mentor, but don't hesitate reaching out to someone else (like Andren or Kendel!)

Always Have Referrals on Hand

- It can be useful to have a list of:
  - Certified Professional Guardians who could step in if needed
  - Attorneys who might be willing to take on the Respondent as their client

Your Safety is an Important Consideration

- Often, you will be visiting people at the hospital or facilities. Occasionally, you will be visiting them, perhaps alone, at their home.
  - Asking family members for info before assessing whether it's safe to visit alone
  - Never take this lightly! Your safety is paramount

We are happy to be resources for you! Thank you for your interest in being CVs!

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