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BuzzFeed News

Hi Katie,

To get started in learning about younger people affected by conservatorships, I suggest that you watch the 34-minute documentary. It shows how conservatorships and guardianships have been affecting young and mid-age adults. There is a link to the film at the bottom of this page: <http://pursuitofjusticefilm.com/>

There are currently about 49,000 regional center clients who are in probate conservatorships in California. Many of them are young adults in the 20s and 30s. (See DDS data attached.) There are probably another 20,000 seniors in probate conservatorships.

Notice how I say “probate conservatorships.” There are two types of conservatorships for adults in California. One is a probate conservatorship which is ordered if the person is unable to properly care for his or her basic needs due to a cognitive disability caused by a condition such a dementia, or a developmental disability, or a traumatic brain injury or other medical condition. These conservatorships, once granted, last indefinitely.

Then there are mental health conservatorships which are authorized by the Lanterman Petris Short Act and thus they are also called LPS conservatorships. These are intended to be short-term interventions. They last only one year unless there is proof provided of the need to extend it for another year. These are generally used for people with mental illnesses. The concern in these cases is often for the safety of the community as well as the protection of the individual.

If you want to learn more about the probate conservatorship system and its failures, register and attend the Town Hall forum on Feb 1. <https://spectruminstitute.org/townhall/>

Also, I suggest that you watch this short video about Michael Pariso which was produced by my colleague Lisa MacCarley. When Michael’s alleged abuse was reported in 2012, he was about 32 years old. Michael had an intellectual disability and was “low verbal” in his communication skills. This was the case that initiated me into the conservatorship system. [Google Drive](#)

I am also attaching a pdf that will give you a description of six cases of young adults with developmental disabilities and the injustices they experienced in the conservatorship system.

These materials should give you a very basic education on probate conservatorships. I am happy to discuss this further if and when you feel the need to talk.

Tom Coleman
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