

38 North Joslyn Drive  
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15235  
July 11, 1973

Mr. Robert Nelkin  
c/o Western State School & Hospital  
Curry Hill Road  
Canonsburg, Pa. 15317

Dear Mr. Nelkin:

I am writing in regard to my sister, Mary Z [REDACTED], who is being considered for the Transitional Living Program.

I have discussed this with my sister, Mrs. Lillian Pallone; my brothers, Mr. Peter Z [REDACTED] and Mr. Chelse Cussali. We are all in agreement that this program would be wrong for our sister Mary.

There are many reasons why we feel very strongly about this. Mary has always had a fear of being alone for as long as I can remember. She has always had complete supervision at all times. For her to eventually be left to do everything for herself is not the answer. My next and very strongest point, should be taken "seriously" into your consideration before making this move. At Mary's last evaluation test, we were told that she had the mentality of a 4 or 4 1/2 year old child. Would you leave any normal 4 or 4 1/2 year old child to shift for themselves? This would normally be called Child Neglect. Mary may appear physically to be an adult, but mentally she is not. I understand the three phases of Transitional Living. The main thing that I object to is the third phase, which is these "so called" adults to be left on their own. I have been told that the locations for these homes for Transitional Living will be located in Oakland, East Liberty, and Shadyside. Normal people take caution in these areas when out, let alone a mentally retarded adult who could be easily taken advantage of. There is much danger in these streets for them and how would they cope with it if they had to. Wasn't this why they were placed in these institutions to start with?

Mr. Nelkin, I am only deeply concerned with Mary's welfare. I am waiting anxiously for your reply. Please take this into consideration before placing Mary into this program.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Elizabeth J. Carello