

To whom it may concern:

My brother is Dominic Piccone. Dominic lived in Pennhurst from 1949-1984. While living in Pennhurst Dominic was reported to be passive, self-involved, and would cause property destruction such as throwing items and breaking them, but this wasn't the Dominic we knew. Dominic was always shy in nature. He is a good brother and was a good son to my mother. Dominic visited his mother every other weekend when he could. Dominic always had limited ability to speak, but the hope was being at Pennhurst they would be able to help improve his language development, but that didn't happen. We felt that Dominic didn't get the support he needed to improve his daily living skills because of the conditions in Pennhurst. There was a time Dominic had a red rash around his wrist, we believed he was restrained, but after talking to staff, it was reported he was having a "Bad Day." Looking back, I know Dominic wasn't self-involved, I believe he was afraid of the loud noises from people screaming and struggling with their own demons.

Once Dominic left Pennhurst, we could see a sense of freedom and relief he felt. Dominic had his own bedroom and his own toiletries, he didn't have to share them or have someone looking over his shoulder while he used the restroom. Dominic also had trained staff that weren't trying to support hundreds of people in overcrowded space, just Dominic and his housemates in his own home. Dominic had the ability to walk around his home without being verbally abused by his staff or other people. Dominic smiled all the time, in the past, we were told that he smiled inappropriately and that wasn't allowed. Dominic is a happy guys and likes to show it. Dominic was supported by his direct support staff to go on trips, especially to the beach, that is one of the trips he took almost every year. Looking at Dominic now, I am so happy to see that he has lived the best life he could with people that truly care about him. Dominic will be 81 years old and I thank God he has been able to survive this long, because some of the people he lived in Pennhurst with didn't have that chance to be free. My brother lives a great life! He goes out in the community and people stop and say hello to him. He enjoys going to Olive Garden and enjoying a meal with his Direct Support Professionals. Dominic attends Holiday Events such as Applefest during the Fall months, Christmas Musicals during the winter months, and summer BBQs, just to name a few. Dominic enjoys going to events with his peers at SPIN if it's a Gala or birthday party, everyone knows him and loves him. Dominic has attended baby showers and bridal showers of his staff, who also call him family. If I had anything to say to those who wanted to keep people in closed facilities, I would tell them to come see my brother. At 80 years old needing full supports from direct support professionals, he is NOT being left unattended, untreated, or ignored. My brother is being cared for fully with hygiene and all essential needs. My brother is being offered choice and options on how he would like to plan his day. My brother has the ability to go anywhere he chooses and has access to a wheelchair van to take him there. My brother SMILES because he is loved and cared for with no judgement. My brother is HAPPY! If I die before my brother, I know that he is loved and cared for and I will be at ease. My brother has been in SPIN from 1984- present and I am so blessed that he was given the opportunity to live a real life.

Sincerely,

Joseph Piccone

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Piccone". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.