

Gordon - Manistee County



On October 1, 1983 my brother, Gordon Johncock Jr., son of famous two-time Indy Winner, Gordon Johncock Sr., was seriously injured as a passenger in a motor vehicle accident. He was only 17 years old. He sustained numerous fractures, internal injuries and was in a coma for two months due to a severe traumatic brain injury.

Gordy is now 55 years old. Over the last 40 years he has been confined to a wheelchair, requires 24/7 support for assistance with activities of daily living, meals, medication management, transportation, medical appointments, safety concerns and requires support and guidance with everyday decision concerning his life. Gordy has lost out on the opportunity to have a wife, a child, a job, drive a car, have a social life, community inclusion, etc. The one thing that Gordy does have is; his home, a dog and staff who care for him 24/7. Without the support of a provider like Advisa Care, Gordy will be forced to be institutionalized and loose the only thing he has left in his life that gives him a reason to wake up.

Michigan's reform of the Auto no Fault has already affected Gordy's overall health and well-being; making it impossible for his provider to guarantee 24/7 support that Gordy needs in order to live in his own home, making it impossible to pay wages that staff can work for, refusing vocational services, recreational therapist, clinical meetings with his care givers due to overtime, computer support, lack of hours a family member can care for him. As a family we stress everyday not knowing what tomorrow will bring.

Gordy's case was unique in that as part of the settlement, Auto Owners required Gordy to spend a significant amount of his own money before they would start to cover services. This was a contract signed by both parties, Gordon's legal guardian and the Attorney for Auto Owners. Gordy abided by the contract and spent the required funds BUT Auto owners is now backing out of the contract they signed on April 15, 1987 agreeing to cover all reasonable and necessary expenses. HOW CAN THIS BE? This can't possibly be legal or constitutional, the policy was bought and paid for.

This is not just about my brother but the thousands of people who are currently suffering from this new reform. We are all human beings with a soul that want and need the same thing, to be seen, to be heard and to know we matter!!

Patsy Johncock-Sherry
Sister and guardian of Gordon Johncock