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Compliance

We are starting to get tense, my daughter and I. I can feel it in the texting we do each morning. Can we really pull this off? I ask because it is not usually done. People with disabilities who live in Supportive Housing usually stay in Supportive Housing. This is because in New York City, it takes parents eight years to get their adult child into Supportive Housing in the first place. And then you have to factor in the wild-eyed gratitude most parents feel when their young person is finally accepted into such a program. Move aside Harvard; this admission policy trumps them all. I say this wryly because it is such an unhappy truth. Parents at this time in their journey with a grown son or daughter with multiple disabilities, are in such desperate need of a life of their own, they sometimes dump and run. Once their adult offspring has adjusted to supportive living, parents mostly leave them where they are because they are safe and managed. All this makes good sense, if the son or daughter is compliant. My observation is that none of this succeeds if they are not. And our daughter was not. Our daughter wanted more. She wanted autonomy and freedom. She wanted to continue going to fine art museums. The “program” took them to amusement parks to ride the roller coaster.