

**BigDawgz** 4 hours ago[remove](#) | [link](#)

Yes, I was that one sibling who bore that burden 24/7/365 for 10 yrs. What I didn't know at the time was that inviting my elderly parent into my home was going to turn my life into a legal NIGHTMARE. Long story short, their care became too much for me, especially while still needing to work full-time to pay my mortgage & bills.....but my state (at that time) would not allow me to force nursing home placement. My parent knew my name but did NOT know I was their daughter.....but could state they wanted to live with me - therefore the state forbade me to force them into a care facility because of their "rights". Nor could I force them to accept an in-home caregiver so I could leave the house. My rights, apparently, didn't matter because I was also told that if I walked out of the house to go to work, leaving my parent alone & something happened, I could be prosecuted & jailed for neglect & endangerment. My parent wouldn't willingly leave, they refused entry to every home aide I ever tried to hire & I eventually had to quit my job so I didn't end up in jail. My sibling refused to help....even when I suggested I watch our parent during the day & work evenings or nights while they cared for them. No, that just wouldn't work for my sibling...too inconvenient. So I asked if they'd provide some monetary support since they refused physical help. No, that too, was met with disapproval. In the end, I ended up spending my entire retirement savings trying to stay financially afloat and STILL had to sell my home of 32 years so I could move myself & my parent 1000 miles away where the cost of living allowed me to support myself & my parent on the sale price of the home until my parent passed away. To this day, my sibling continues to blame ME for "breaking up the family" by moving. He doesn't see the economic impact this has had on me, the loss of my home, the health problems the chronic stress caused in ME, the loss of my friends and worst of all the loss of ME. It sounds melodramatic but I can assure you it's not, but I spent SO many years denying what *I* needed & what *I* wanted to care for my parent, that I don't know who I am anymore. I used to have dreams & goals & now they're gone. I lived "in the moment" out of necessity for so many years that I honestly don't know any longer how to look ahead with anticipation. My only dream these days at age 56 is to one day be able to retire.....but after having to start all over at 47 trying to rebuild retirement savings & now a disastrous economy with runaway inflation, it's doubtful it will ever happen. My sibling that couldn't lift a finger or spend a dime, though, he's flush with a cushy retirement account & making lavish plans to retire & travel in a couple of years when he hits 62. I loved my parent & what happened to me is not their fault. Had they been in their right mind, they would have seen what it was doing to me & would have agreed to placement. But, the reality of it all is that caring for my parent has RUINED my life...physically, emotionally & financially.