

Award Winning Short Film Fatal Negligence Exposes the Hidden Abuse Inside Court Appointed Guardianships

NEW YORK CITY, NY, UNITED STATES, August 26, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- One in 10 Americans age 60 and older has experienced elder abuse, and only one in 24 cases is ever reported, per the National Council on Aging. An estimated 1.3 million adults live under court appointed guardianship in the United States, with about \$50 billion in assets controlled by their guardians, as reported by the National Council on Disability. Fatal Negligence, a 22 minute dramatic thriller written,



Juliette Fairley

directed by and starring [Juliette Fairley](#), drops the viewer inside that system. Inspired by true events, it follows Georgina Dillard, a daughter who has been barred from seeing her father for weeks. Ben Dillard, a partially blind retired military veteran, has been placed under the guardianship of his girlfriend. Behind closed doors he is being starved and denied the glaucoma medication that protects what remains of his sight. Desperate for answers, Georgina hires private investigator Larry Limine, who goes undercover and discovers that Ben's isolation is no accident.

The film won the Signature Award for Best New Work at the 2026 Chain NYC Film Festival on Aug. 16 and now heads to Los Angeles for a seven day Oscar qualifying theatrical run at the Laemmle theater in Santa Monica from Sept. 11 through Sept. 17, 2026.

"I made this film because families are living through this right now, and most of them have no idea it is legal," said Fairley. "A court can hand a stranger control of your parent's money, medical care and front door, and you can be turned away at the reception desk with no recourse. Georgina's fight is the fight thousands of sons and daughters are having in probate courts across the country. I want audiences to leave angry enough to call their legislators."

Fairley stars as Georgina alongside Ajene D. Washington as Ben Dillard and Behzad Dabiri as Larry Limine. Marie Donna Davis and Deborah Bivens portray the staff who keep Georgina out.

The production was shot in April at an independent living facility in downtown Manhattan.

Early coverage from NTD and Film Threat has singled out the film's timeliness, with the latter describing the guardianship abuse it depicts as sinister yet legal. Fairley's goal is to amplify the voices of exploited veterans and other victims of predatory guardianships nationwide and to build public pressure for reform.

Audiences will next see Fairley as Carol, a devoted mother confronting family turmoil, in the feature *The Devil Is a Liar*, which premieres Oct. 8, 2026 on Tubi and Amazon Prime.

The festival trailer, scene clips and behind the scenes footage from *Fatal Negligence* are available in H264 format for broadcast and online embedding. Interview requests can be directed to the media contact below.

About Juliette Fairley

Juliette Fairley is an award-winning actress, screenwriter, filmmaker, stand-up comedian and journalist. She made her television debut in Spike Lee's NBC pilot *Mayor of New York* and her screen credits include the Tribeca Film Festival selection *Summer of Blood* and *The Challenger*. Her original projects *My 13th Cousin Once Removed* and *Adult Children of the American Revolution* have earned recognition at film festivals nationwide. She holds a master's degree from Columbia University Journalism School, and her reporting has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Variety* and *The Hollywood Reporter*. Follow her on Instagram at @FairleyJuliette.

Sources

National Council on Aging, Get the Facts on Elder Abuse

<https://www.ncoa.org/article/get-the-facts-on-elder-abuse/>

National Council on Disability, Beyond Guardianship: Toward Alternatives That Promote Greater Self Determination

<https://www.ncd.gov/report/beyond-guardianship-toward-alternatives-that-promote-greater-self-determination-for-people-with-disabilities/>

Film Threat, *Fatal Negligence* review

<https://filmthreat.com/reviews/fatal-negligence/>

NTD, Film *Fatal Negligence* Tackles Predatory Elder Care

https://www.ntd.com/film-fatal-negligence-tackles-predatory-elder-care_1165383.html

Media Contact:

Ryan McCormick

Goldman McCormick PR, INC

+1 516-901-1103

ryan@goldmanmccormick.com

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/937338336>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2026 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.