

SPECIAL REPORT
LIFE AFTER WILLOWBROOK

One of life's most gut-wrenching choices

Dozens of Island parents have made — or will soon make — the tough decision to move their adult children into community residences for the developmentally disabled

By **FRANK DONNELLY**
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

As a jurist, Civil Court Judge Philip Straniere has ruled on dozens of emotionally charged eviction cases and personal injury claims.

But the Livingston resident and his wife, Jennifer, made perhaps the most difficult decision of their lives just two weeks ago, when they moved Gregory, their autistic son who will turn 20 next month, into a community residence for the developmentally disabled.

"You always think you should be able to take care of your own child," says Straniere. "But at some point you decide, is it beneficial for him to stay at home?"



ADVANCE PHOTO ■ ROB SOLLETT

Judge Philip Straniere and his wife, Jennifer, visit their son, Gregory, at the Cebra Avenue Community Residence.

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