



Cathy Mary (Baier) Chaplin

May 8, 1961 - February 24, 2026

Cathy Mary (Baier) Chaplin, age 64, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, passed away on February 24, 2026, at home, where she wished to be, surrounded by her family and the care and comfort that supported her in her final days. She was born on May 8, 1961, in Sault Ste. Marie, to Dale Baier and Rita (Myotte Baier) McPhail.

A lifelong resident of Sault Ste. Marie, Cathy was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She dedicated most of her career to cosmetology education, teaching and mentoring generations of local hairstylists. Her influence reached far beyond the classroom, and many in the community remember her not only as a teacher but as someone who helped shape their careers and confidence.

Cathy was known for her wit, generosity, and unmistakable stubborn streak, traits that made her both memorable and deeply loved. She enjoyed cheering on the Detroit Red Wings, playing cards with family and friends, reading, and traveling whenever she could. She was a proud member of a local cribbage league and cherished the time spent laughing and competing with friends. Cathy also loved getting in the car and heading out for a drive, confidently insisting she was never lost, just going “this way.”

Above all, Cathy treasured her family and the time spent together. Her

warmth, humor, and strong spirit will be remembered by all who knew her.

Cathy is lovingly survived by her partner, Brent Benson; her children, Dale Chaplin, Derek Chaplin, and Barbara (Chris) Goetz; and her cherished grandchildren, Arionna (Ethan), Reese, Kaedence, Rylan, and Blake. She was especially smitten with her great granddaughter, Elsie, who brought her immense joy. She is also survived by her siblings, Gary (Chris) Baier, Patti (Terry) Adams, Leann Baier, and Carol (Walter) Plitz; along with former sisters-in-law, Sherrie Steele and Frances Baier Brown; and many nieces and nephews, too many to name individually, with whom she shared many close relationships, along with many extended family members and friends.

Cathy was preceded in death by her parents, Dale and Rita; and brother, Paul Baier.

The family wishes to express their sincere gratitude to the caregivers, especially Mary Sawyers, who went above and beyond to support Cathy and honor her wish to remain in her family home through the final moments of her life.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at the Niigaanagiizhik Cultural Building from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Obituary as submitted by family.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 9. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Niigaanaagiizhik Ceremonial Building
11 Ice Circle
Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783

Tribute Wall

KJ

“ I am very sorry to hear of Cathy's passing. She was an instructor of mine at St. Mary's Institute of Cosmetology. She was so nice and kind. I only have good memories of her. My sympathy to the family.

Katrina JP - May 07 at 08:01 PM

RM

“ Ms. Chaplin was a cosmetology instructor in the Sault when I met her. She was patient and approachable. I appreciated her ability to show me new ways to look at situations. I carry good memories of her.

Rebecca Miller - March 11 at 08:12 AM