

Mr. Swedish,

It has been over a year since we last communicated, and I would like to update you on the latest developments in my father's case and to once again ask for your help and intervention.

Holy Cross Hospital was cited in June by the Maryland Office of Health Care Quality for failing to have a Certificate of Condition form in place in my father's record.

With the depositions of the attending physician (Dr. Shamim) in July and the pulmonologist (Dr. Weiner) last Thursday, the shocking gap in care that I described to you over a year ago has now unfortunately been substantiated. Dr. Shamim stated that when he saw my father in respiratory distress he began the process of evaluating whether intubation was required, but then turned over my father's care - and the life-and-death decisions inherent, to Dr. Weiner. He [described in detail](#) how he ordered tests on Dr. Weiner's behalf and how he observed Dr. Weiner in the room talking to me at length about my father's condition. He said that he left the hospital and never checked back, leaving my father completely in the hands of Dr. Weiner. [None of the above is documented](#); we would not have known it but for the deposition.

Dr. Weiner [testified last week](#) that he did not see my father at all on the day in question. He lied under oath, and, I believe, confirmed what the hospital has refused to investigate all this time: his complete abandonment of my father. The hospital staff was seemingly complicit as well; the nursing notes contain [no entries of substance for that day](#), even though my father was full-code and in critical need of medical attention.

Dr. Weiner said that he was convinced from the outset that my father was not going to survive his hospitalization, and thus any care to be given would be futile care. (In reality this was far from certain. To the contrary, all of the progress note entries by the admitting and attending doctors and nurses indicate a patient with no underlying terminal illness or multiple organ failure, improving each day and on the road to discharge.) But that is beside the point. If you understand my passion and desire that my father be treated with respect, than you know that I cannot accept what happened. Nor should you. It was not merely a breach of the medical standard of care, it was a purposeful and forceful breach of my father's core religious values by a doctor who somehow gave himself the right to do this. It was, I regret to say, the forced euthanasia of a father who had no terminal illness and was in no pain. Of secondary importance, it prevented me from doing right by my father in his greatest time of need.

Mr. Swedish, I fully understand that doctors face very difficult situations every day, and that when there is a bad outcome the family will quite often harbor resentment toward the physician. Considering the vital role doctors play in our society they should be given the benefit of every doubt. But I'm sure you would agree that when the disregard of rules and ethics is so blatant, a line must be drawn. Although we can never undo what happened, we can, even at this late date, show my father posthumously that his life was of value, by holding the bad actors accountable and creating a future deterrence. I am asking you, in the name of all that is sacred to our religions, to take the following steps on my father's behalf:

- Find out whether what I have described is accurate.*
- If it is, accord my father the belated recognition of his life's value, and acknowledge the seriousness of what may have happened, by suspending Dr. Weiner's hospital privileges pending a full and transparent investigation of this matter.
- Involve me and other outsiders such as my father's Rabbi in the investigation.

As of yet no one from your organization has contacted me to discuss this case. I would even be willing to travel to your headquarters to tell you and your staff what happened personally.

May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life for the coming year.

Sincerely,

Alexander H. Neustadter

* Dr. Weiner's presence and abandonment of my father [confirmed by trial testimony](#).