

SEP 24 '99 09:08 FR SUNOR - SUBACUTE

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To Whom It May Concern

RE Carolina Destefano

September 22, 1999

I first came into contact with Mrs. Destefano and her son on her admission to Florida Hospital on September 15, 1999. Her son had several questions regarding quality of life, prognosis and treatment for Alzheimer's Disease, Power of Attorney and euthanasia. We discussed these matters to satisfaction at the time. I informed the son that euthanasia is illegal in the State of Florida. His major focus issued on the quality of life for his mother as an Alzheimer's patient and wanting to follow her living will. I ordered that Hospice be involved as well as the chaplain service in this discussion. As part of the Hospice evaluation, wound care specialist examined and began caring for two perianal and left heel decubitus ulcers. Mr. Destefano wanted to make it explicitly clear that she had already developed these lesions while in the care of the State of Arizona. During the eight months he cared for her in Arizona, he did everything in his power to make these ulcers heal. He asked if I would write this in her chart so that no one would be suspicious of him abusing her.

Over the next two days, Ms. Destefano's condition improved. I assured Mr. Destefano he could leave her room to find housing for them. Several of the nursing staff reported that Mr. Destefano was interfering with his mother's care and that the care he provided seemed inappropriate. They could not say it was flagrant abuse, but perhaps the son did not know. Nevertheless, I wrote an order that the son not participate in care unless directed and educated by nursing and physical therapy. Some examples reported that he would place his knee in her back and pull her arms upward so that she would stand, continuously inserted food in her mouth until she began to gag so that she would reflexively swallow, and would literally drag his mother for a walk until she became exhausted and her heel ulcer began to bleed. I can not in good faith state that Mr. Destefano abuses his mother. However in my dealings with him in regarding care and [illegible] Mr. Destefano appeared angry and defensive.

Sincerely,

John H. Steely, MD
Florida Hospital Family Practice Residency.

To Whom It May Concern

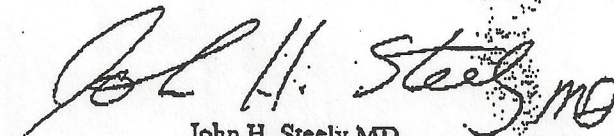
Re: Carolina Destefano

September 27, 1999

I first came into contact with Ms. Destefano and her son on her admission to Florida Hospital on September 15, 1999. Her son had several questions regarding quality of life, prognosis and treatment for Alzheimer's disease, Power of Attorney, and euthanasia. We discussed these matters to satisfaction at the time. I informed the son that euthanasia is illegal in the State of Florida. His major focus issued on the quality of life for his mother as an Alzheimer's patient and wanting to follow her living will. I ordered that hospice be involved as well as the chaplain service in this discussion. As part of the hospice evaluation, wound care specialist examined and began caring for two perianal and left heel decubitus ulcers. Mr. Destefano wanted to make it explicitly clear that she had already developed these lesions while in the care of the State of Arizona. During the eight months he cared for her in Arizona, he did everything in his power to make these ulcers heal. He asked if I would write this in her chart so that no one would be suspicious of him abusing her.

Over the next two days, Ms. Destefano's condition improved. I assured Mr. Destefano he could leave her room to find housing for them. Several of the nursing staff reported that Mr. Destefano was interfering with his mother's care and the care he provided seemed inappropriate. They could not say it was intentional abuse, but perhaps the son did not know. Nevertheless, I wrote an order that the son not participate in care unless directed and educated by nursing and physical therapy. Some examples reported to me he would place his knee in her back and pull her arms upward so she would stand, continuously insert food in her mouth until she began to gag so that she would reflexively swallow, and would literally drag his mother for a walk until she became exhausted and the heel ulcer began to bleed. I can not in good conscience state that Mr. Destefano abuses his mother. However in my dealings with him in regarding care and transportation, Mr. Destefano appeared angry and defensive.

Sincerely,



John H. Stealy MD
Florida Hospital Family Practice Residency