

My name is Danette Gillingham. I am writing as an eyewitness and daughter to testify on behalf of my mother, Judith Lee Kneeland, who died at Clovis Community Hospital in Clovis, California, on September 16, 2021, after being admitted on August 13 with COVID-19 pneumonia.

My mother was 73 years old, mentally competent, coherent, and, before becoming ill, in good health. She had been sick for several days and became dehydrated, with somewhat low oxygen levels. We believed the hospital would provide fluids and supplemental oxygen and that she would recover and return home.

Instead, upon admission, she was immediately isolated from her family. Despite being legally disabled and having family available to advocate for her, our repeated requests for visitation were denied. We were told this was hospital "policy," but were never shown the policy. We received little communication about her condition or treatment, and items we brought for her were left on the floor, out of her reach.

Initially, she received oxygen through a nasal cannula. She improved immediately, was stable, eating, feeling better, and texting us during her first day in the hospital.

Despite that improvement, she was forced on BiPAP, a high-pressure breathing system. Her doctor acknowledged that she personally could not tolerate it for five minutes. My mother remained on it for 33 days. This aggressive oxygen caused severe physical complications, the inability to wean off and ultimately blew a hole in her lung.

Our family was also deeply concerned about the medications and treatments administered under what the hospital called its "COVID protocol." My mother received Remdesivir for ten days, along with steroids and multiple sedating medications. At no point were we informed of the risks, alternatives, or rationale for these treatments.

We repeatedly requested alternative treatments and asked that Remdesivir not be administered. Those requests were denied and my mother's "right to try" was ignored. An infectious-disease physician told me, regarding Remdesivir, "We know nothing about this drug, it is like Voodoo medicine" and expressed concern over its use. She told me that if we could get my mom out of the hospital, she would prescribe Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine and that she had taken my request for these treatments to the Administration but had been denied. They told her that the FDA had threatened them just that week. She told me, it was political and very troubling!

The most devastating part came when our family was finally allowed into my mother's room. We had been told she was too weak to eat, drink, or communicate and that we should prepare to say goodbye.

Yet, when we entered my mother immediately recognized us and began asking for water. She then told us she had been begging for food and water and been repeatedly denied. We witnessed her ability to eat and drink when given the opportunity. She told us "that they wanted her dead

and were trying to kill her! They had restrained her and hit her." We could see that she was naked, bloody, bruised and exposed and been left to lay in her own waste. She told us the only Doctor that had spoken to her was the Palliative Care Doctor, who wanted her to "pull the plug" and was daily visiting her room to gaslight her into believing there was no hope or cure and she would "die without compliance to protocol" or ventilation.

The final 17 days of her life, our family was finally permitted to remain with her. We stayed by her side and tried desperately to reverse what we believed had happened during her isolation. Yet, my mother died of renal failure at 74, having spent her last birthday hospitalized, hopeless and alone.

I ask that this be recorded and investigated to ensure that these practices and what happened to my mother—and to other patients separated from their families during the pandemic—cannot happen again.