

Shawn Spakes, Age 57, Arkansas

My name is Donna Spakes, and my husband, Shawn Spakes, died on June 17, 2021, due to the failed Covid-19 Hospital Protocol response.

He was diagnosed at a medical clinic with Covid on May 15th and sent home with an inhaler. Then after a second visit on May 18th, was diagnosed with pneumonia and prescribed Doxycycline, Dexamethasone, Promethazine and an inhaler with a mask.

On May 20th, we went to the emergency room, and the first question the doctor asked was “Were you vaccinated?” And of course, his answer was “no, but I caught it from someone who was”. It was his elderly stepdad who exposed him to Covid-19. He was vaccinated and got a totally different treatment plan and was already recovering.

The doctor told us that Shawn’s oxygen level was in a good range (89-90), that they had checked him out and he appeared very healthy, wasn’t even wheezing, and just needed some oxygen, but since he didn’t have oxygen at home, it would be best if they admit him.

I asked about other treatment options. The doctor said no to Ivermectin. He said hydroxychloroquine was ineffective and they no longer use it to treat Covid. Monoclonal antibodies denied. Shawn was too healthy and it was only for people with comorbidities. I asked for plasma and they said there was a shortage.

The doctor told Shawn that he would likely treat him with “run, death is near”, I mean Remdesivir. There was no mention of side effects, no mention of the Ebola trials. No informed consent. No choice. Just a one size fit all protocol that we had no choice about. He was admitted to the hospital that night.

On May 25th, I was woken when his nurse called me at 12:13 AM. She had gone to check vitals, and found my husband on the floor unresponsive, no color and with no detectable heartbeat or pulse. She called for a code-blue, performed CPR and got him back.

When I arrived at the hospital, the CCU doctor informed me “that it was a good thing they caught him before he lost consciousness”. In his medical records, it states that they decided that he never lost consciousness. Tell that to the nurse who performed CPR!

In CCU, they allowed family visiting hours, which amounted to one chair several feet away from a glass wall. I requested an ECMO transfer to another hospital. I follow up every day, but each time I was told that it was denied.

The doctor asked every single day that we sign a DNR and we declined each time. We were told to go ahead and sign for him to be ventilated, so that when it becomes necessary, there would be no delay.

On May 30th, they told me they would let me in the room with him if I would convince him to go on the vent. I said I would ask, only if I was able to see him. In the meantime, they moved his bed next to the window. Shawn put his hand up to the glass and I pressed mine against his. Then his hands fell, he laid his head back against the pillow and closed his eyes.

When I was finally allowed to walk into his room, I saw the nurse administering the medication. It was too late, they were already venting him. They told me not to touch him, but I lifted the mask and kissed him anyway. In the medical records, it states that I said yes to the vent. I never even got to talk to him.

And when I walked out the door, I overheard the nurse calling for a med flight. He then walked over to me and said, "his transfer has been approved".

My husband was flown to a Little Rock hospital and spent almost 3 weeks on ECMO, but most of the damage was already done. This is when I was informed by the cardiologist that a hospital transfer was never received. He said he knew this because he was only person who approves them.

Shawn succumbed to the failed COVID-19 hospital protocols on June 17, 2021.

Shawn was a loyal, kind and beautiful human being. He was a hard worker, a loyal son, a good father, and even better Pawpaw, and he was my best friend and loving husband.

He deserved to live. What happened to him was nothing short of a complete failure of the handling of the Covid crisis.

I'm asking Senator Johnson to consider all our pleas to not let them die in vain. Let something good come from this, help bring beauty from the ashes and make sure this never happens again in an American hospital.