

Witness Background

My name is Karen C. Wilkinson. I have been married to Dr. David Wilkinson since August 26, 1995. I am a former Registered Respiratory Therapist. During my husband's hospitalization from July 2021 through January 2022, I served as his primary advocate, participated in discussions with his physicians and was informed of major decisions regarding his care.

Shortly before David's hospitalization, I also tested positive for COVID-19. My illness remained asymptomatic. David had prescribed ivermectin for both of us, and I took the ivermectin he prescribed for me.

Patient Background

Dr. David Wilkinson was a 50-year-old practicing urologist at NCH (Naples Community Hospital). Before COVID-19, his medical history included seasonal allergies and childhood asthma. He had never smoked and typically consumed 2–4 glasses of wine per week.

Chronology of Events

On July 19, 2021, David was admitted to NCH with an oxygen saturation of 78%. Although David had prescribed ivermectin for himself, NCH declined to administer it. I had his prescription compounded and personally brought it to the hospital where he practiced, but it was not given to him.

On July 20, an attending physician called to inform me that David had been given remdesivir. There had been no discussion with me beforehand regarding that treatment. Up until that time, David's supplemental oxygen requirements had decreased, his laboratory values were improving, and there had been discussion of discharging him to Landmark, a step-down hospital. Following that point, I personally observed his condition rapidly worsen.

My visiting privileges were halted multiple times during David's hospitalization, limiting my ability to be physically present with and advocate for him. I was ultimately allowed into the hospital when, in the words communicated to me, David was **“actively dying.”**

David was transferred to Landmark on August 4, 2021. His decline continued, resulting in intubation and mechanical ventilation. During his hospitalization, he was designated Do Not Resuscitate (DNR). I successfully advocated to reverse the DNR order and searched for a hospital willing to continue aggressive treatment.

On September 18, 2021, David was transported by Life Flight to AdventHealth Orlando, where he was evaluated for lung transplantation. He underwent a double lung transplant during the night of November 1–2, 2021. He was discharged home on January 5, 2022, during the Omicron surge.

Declaration

These statements are based on my firsthand observations, contemporaneous notes, discussions with David's treating physicians, and my direct participation in his care and advocacy. Following David's recovery, I documented our family's experience in my memoir, *On Borrowed Breath*. I respectfully submit this statement for the record and am willing to answer questions regarding these events.

Timeline

July 19, 2021 — Admitted to NCH; SpO₂ 78%.

July 20, 2021 — Informed remdesivir had been administered.

August 4, 2021 — Transferred to Landmark; later intubated.

September 18, 2021 — Life Flight to AdventHealth Orlando.

November 1–2, 2021 — Double lung transplant.

January 5, 2022 — Discharged home.
