

Georgette Guccione was born in Sicily in 1954. In 1967, at the age of 13, she immigrated to the United States. She quickly embraced her new country, became a proud American, and instilled that same love of country in her children and grandchildren.

Georgette was a healthy, active 67-year-old woman who deeply loved her family. She was the devoted mother of four children, grandmother of nine, and great-grandmother of one. Her family was her greatest joy, and she was the heart of ours.

On August 20, 2021, my mother was coerced into being transported by ambulance to Conway Medical Center in Conway, South Carolina. Upon arriving at the hospital, her oxygen saturation was in the 80s. She was awake, alert, able to speak, and able to answer questions.

During her hospitalization, my mother received two rounds of remdesivir without her informed consent or the consent of her family.

Throughout her 23-day hospital stay, she was placed on high levels of oxygen, physically restrained, confined to her bed, deprived of all nutrition, kept heavily sedated and unconscious, and isolated from her family under the hospital's COVID-19 visitor restrictions. Our family was denied the ability to visit her or advocate for her in person. We were also denied our requests for vitamins and alternative treatments.

During her hospitalization, she developed kidney failure, suffered a pneumothorax (collapsed lung), and developed a pleural effusion (fluid around the lung), requiring a tube thoracostomy (chest tube placement). When our family questioned the condition of her kidneys, we were repeatedly told they were being tested every day, that her urine was clear, and that they were functioning properly.

Despite my mother's previously expressed wishes, and despite our family's repeated requests that she not be placed on a ventilator, she was ultimately intubated and mechanically ventilated without our consent.

For 23 days, my mother fought to survive.

On September 12, 2021, Georgette Guccione passed away alone in her hospital room at the age of 67.

Our family continues to live with the pain of losing a loving mother and grandmother. We believe every patient deserves informed consent, transparency, respect for their medical wishes, the ability to have loved ones advocate on their behalf, and the comfort of having family present during life's most critical moments.

We are sharing my mother's story in the hope that it will be heard, that accountability will prevail, and that no other family will have to endure what ours did. Her life mattered, her voice mattered, and her story deserves to be remembered.