

September 22nd 2015
Office of the Governor Division Of Ombudsman & Citizens Services
1205 Pendleton St.
Columbia, SC. 29211

To whom it may concern;

My name is Michelle Hurtekant. I am writing this to ask for help with the way my son Donald Hurtekant Jr. is being treated while he is incarcerated in Aiken County Detention Center in Aiken South Carolina. He is awaiting a bond hearing and first trial for the alleged murder of a man in Trenton South Carolina. He has been denied bond once, the judge and the solicitor citing he is not sick enough and he is a flight risk as well to be out on bond even with a monitored ankle bracelet. He is not a flight risk, he is on Kidney Dialysis treatments and cant not Diabetic and has a prosthetic left leg to below the knee. Donald is also blind in one eye and low vision in the other. The list of violations against his amendment rights as well as his disability rights grows every day.

These are just a few of the inhuman treatments my son, as well as other inmates has had to go through while being held in Aiken County Detention Center these past 4 months.

Donald told the nurse his right leg; calf , ankle, and foot was swollen and hurting they put cream on it. He told them the cream was not working. The doctor prescribed an antibiotic for him on a Wednesday but it took them till Friday to give it to him. All this happened in a weeks' time. When he told them that the antibiotic was making him sick and nauseous they said they couldn't give him anything for nausea. As if it were a class 2 drug. He told them he can't eat hardly for being sick to his stomach. The doctor writes a script for a nausea medication but makes him wait for a couple more days to give it to him. Why do they wait?? Are they purposely torturing him??? He hasn't been found guilty of anything, and they have no real evidence on him, but the words of drug addicts and drunks.

He hasn't given them any trouble. And they treat him like he hurt a child or was a mass murderer. I asked them to let him see his regular doctors they told me no, the doctor here is a licensed medical doctor. I asked from where was she licensed. She doesn't know him like his regular doctors do. She told me "If he should get real bad then and only then will they transport him to the hospital, to the ER." What do they classify as bad? If his right leg should burst open or get a sore, with the unsanitary conditions in the jail, he could very well end up losing his leg, again. Or worse go septic and die if not treated properly with the right medications. If he gets an open sore on his stump and is not treated in the right manner, he will get an infection and he will lose more of what is left of his right leg, more than likely up to his groin and hip.

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My daughter and I have been taking all his medications to the jail for him. They have stated several times that they will not pick up any medication prescribed to him from his other doctors from the pharmacy. Even though they do it for other inmates. We have been fighting with them since he has been there. It's been almost a daily fight between the doctors writing the scripts and the pharmacy filling them and the jail not wanting to get them. When we go get them and bring them to the jail and hand them over to the nurse personally one on one, he still doesn't get them right away, and they have waited to tell him on more than one occasion his meds have run out or he has only one dose left. Causing Donald to call us as soon as he gets rec time. Then having us to call doctors and or the pharmacy; run to the pharmacy then back across town to get it to the nurse to hopefully get it to him. The only medication we do not pick up is his Dialysis treatments. They come from his Kidney doctor who orders it then it is delivered to the Aiken County Detention Center. Took us a month to get that straightened out and a lot of phone calls.

On one of our visits he had a low sugar reaction as the nurse giving him too much insulin and not getting the proper diet for the amount of insulin given. We pounded on the window and jumped up and down yelling for the guards, as we watched my son slump on the metal table before him. Thick glass separating us. They opened the door called the nurse, she came fairly fast, and started to check his sugar. They made us leave and would not tell us what the number was to his blood glucose count. But I knew by looking at him it was not good, he was going gray pale and sweating profusely, his eyes half shut and wanting to roll back into his head. I have gone through this with him, to many times to count for 30+ years' with him.

I found out later when he called us the next day. His blood count was 32. It took them an hour to get his sugar up just enough so he could walk back to his cell. His jumpsuit was soaked from sweat. He asked them if he could have another jumpsuit till his dried, they denied him a dry one. It was still another day till he could wash the one he had. He took it off and draped over his metal table, but his underwear were just as soaked, but he had to leave them on as he had nothing else to put on. He curled up in bed under one thin blanket in an cold air-conditioned room, in his wet t-shirt and boxers. They made him lay there like that, wet cold and still sick. They brought his blood glucose level up just enough to be in the normal range. But if you don't monitor it and have them eat a good meal it can and has dropped again. He said if he would not have had any snacks from the commissary in his cell, it would of dropped again. When he has had these bad episodes at home or goes to the hospital, he is stripped out of his wet clothes and heat blankets are put around him as his temperature drops as well when his sugar drops. To me this is torture.

Just recently, they made him walk up 20 plus steps to have visitation with his 4 year old son. He has letters from the Jail doctor as well as his Prosthetic leg Doctor stating that he cannot climb any stairs, because of his prosthetic leg and now his other leg is still

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swollen and is infected. His balance is bad and his stump is bruised because they have not been giving him his socks of different sizes for his stump. Now his stump does not fit as tightly in the prosthetic leg making it difficult to walk as his stump moves around inside the leg or if his stump is swollen it is even harder to walk as its not sitting inside properly to give him the support he needs; and the prosthetic leg could fall off. He is blind in one eye and has bad eyesight in the other eye. Making him have poor depth perception and his balance off. They had his hands chained to his waist so he could not hold the railing going up or down the stairs and the guards did not help steady him at all as he tried to climb each step. His Prosthetic leg does not have an ankle and does not bend for climbing stairs. So he has to raise his whole leg to lift it and place it on the step. If the stump is not seated properly in the cup the leg fails and he will go down. They put a short female guard in back of him should he fall going up the steps.. he weighs around 220 lbs. and is 6 foot 3 inches tall. A large man. Now tell me how is she going to stop him should he fall. On the way down they put a large male guard in front of him going down the stairs back to his cell. He asks him if he falls on him and hurts him on the way down, what happens, Guard replied "I get 6 weeks paid vacation." Really???

All this because he brought in a piece of paper a form the doctor had given him earlier as he had just come from his renal doctor, to draw a picture with his son, through a thick piece of glass. They said we were; and are; passing contraband through the slit no bigger than a piece of paper can slide through, back and forth. So they took away our visitation in the attorney's room on the ground floor. Told him if it continues they will take away our visitation permanently. Really??? He took the piece of paper back with him when he left. It was a picture he drew of a small boat and him and his son (as stick figures) fished off the boat. They say it has a hidden message??? What??? How? and how is this contraband? When it never left his hands?

They are now accusing us of visiting his babies momma who is also incarcerated in the same place for alleged accessory to this crime. The video visits are 30 minutes long but subtract 5 minutes for logon. If the machines work at all. I would like them to prove that they have us on video visit with her after we see my son, every time, and talk back and forth and relay messages. I think they have us confused with someone else. Their son talks to them more than we do. They miss each other badly. He is 4 years old. He is in lockdown 20 hours a day 7 days week. He has now been made a trustee and helps hand out drinks in his pod on the first floor only a couple times a day. He is given 1 hour rec time, in that hour he has to clean his room, take a shower get on the computer to make his canteen list or complaints or requests. Talk on the phone and try to be outside in a rectangular small space no larger than his cell space. There is no sunlight or fresh air coming into this space. They are now letting him share this rec time with a couple other inmates. He is in a "pod" with other inmates, but each are in their own cinder block and full steel door by themselves. There is a TV but only one maybe two inmates can actually see it out the small window of their cells. You would think this

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was a maximum security prison the way they treat some of these guys. This is where they put the crazy ones, he is told. But he is not crazy, yet they put him in there. Because of his leg and the tubes sticking out of his belly for his Dialysis, so they say. The guards taunt the inmates, pounding in the doors for no reason other than to taunt them calling them names the milder of "convict, convict, convict, your are trash!" This against the law and their rights.

While in the course of being incarcerated they have denied him his medications, then when given were not on time and many times not the same dosage causing him deadly bodily harm. They have consistently failed to provide the proper diet for someone in his condition, giving him the foods that he is not to eat being on a specialized Renal and Diabetic diet. They have denied him the full range of sizes of his prosthetic socks for his stump even though my daughter and I have taken them to him giving them to the nurse herself for him. It took her 2 weeks to give them to him leaving him with only one during his whole time giving him several bad bruises on his stump. This is causing bodily harm and endangering his life.

Donald stated he was doing the juices and the nurse came to give him his meds so he went back into his cell and as he walked in there he noticed a little puddle of water around the drain. He placed his personal items on his bed when he saw the first little puddle so they wouldn't get wet. He took his meds and as he walked out he noticed the puddle had gotten bigger and had a smell of raw sewage and told the guard. He acted like he didn't care. By the time he was done with the juice cart, he saw the puddle had spread throughout most of his cell and into the pod itself.

Maintenance was called and when they removed the drain cap, a dozen or so Palmetto bugs crawled out and scattered through the pod and his cell. He did not walk through the water as it was raw sewage bubbling up from the drain. There was some room to walk around it. He had to ask for bleach to clean his cell. It took him a good 2 hours to bleach the pod and his cell by himself. The unclean conditions and lack of medical knowledge and special dietary needs of someone in my son's condition is outrageous. The latest infraction my son as well as other inmates had in his pod; a water pipe broke just before this past weekend and did not get fixed to and the water cleaned up till this past Monday. They went with water to flush toilets and bath for this time.

My son is now starting to go blind in his only good eye as a result of the poor diet and improper administration of his insulin according to his insulin and activity. He has told them he needs to go the eye doctor or to have one look at him to see what is happening. The head jail "Jessica" told us to find a doctor for him, but they would not let us make the appt, the jail had to do it. The nurse "Jessica" was given a doctors name and number by me to call and have an appointment made for him. When I called back to see if anything had been done, she told me when they can get with transportation to take him they will. I told her he needs to be seen ASAP or he will go totally blind, as this is just

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starting to happen and is progressing rapidly. I asked her again about him having visitation with his now 5 yr. old son this Sunday or Thursday, she said she didn't know, she would let us know if he can climb stairs.

Please help me help my son. There are a few jail guards and officers over them do not help. They turn their backs on us and don't want to get involved. I am sorry if this is so long. This is some of the things they are doing to him and other inmates, the list continues to grow. My family and I feel like they are violating his amendment rights to being treated like a human being while being incarcerated and awaiting trial. I thought the law says you are innocent until proven guilty and that you are to be treated with respect, healthy conditions and food. I thought the laws have changed from the past and inmates are to be treated better. What ever happened to the rights of inmates and prisoner's? We would like to pursue a class action suit against the Aiken County Detention Center for violation of the Amendment rights of the inmates as well as the violation of rights of the inmates with disabilities. There are several inmates, female and male, that have grievances that will be more than willing to join in on a class action suit. The evidence is there, I just need help to bring it to a head and make them pay for abusing the inmates; and my son. If you can please help in any way to change the way Donald Hurtekant and other inmates are being treated in Aiken County Detention Center in Aiken SC or if you have any questions regarding this please contact me any time.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely;

Michelle Hurtekant
788 Old Graniteville Hwy.
Aiken, SC. 29801
434-989-7404
EchosOfGreen@live.com

