

May 5, 2016

SC Office of Ombudsman

ATTN : Jim Casserly, Director

Wade Hampton Building

1205 Pendleton Street

Columbia SC 29201

RE: James McCaskill

Patient at Springdale Nursing Facility Camden, SC

Dear Mr. Casserly,

I trust your office is where I need to direct this concern. I am writing to you on behalf of James McCaskill, a 39 year old patient in the Springdale Nursing Facility in Camden, SC, in the hope that someone from your office can look into his care.

My sister and I have been visiting James for several years and have noticed a steady decline in him. I visited James last Monday, 5/2/2016, and noticed stitches and bruises over his left eye. He told me "they beat me on the floor". I found his nurse and she told me James had fallen out of his wheelchair and hit his head on the floor. James is blind and crippled and strapped in a wheelchair.

James has lost a substantial amount of weight within the past year and is now fed pureed foods. When he was still able to eat solid food, we would find him feeding himself with his hands. Once as we arrived to visit, James was eating chicken (bones and all). We have been unable to learn why he is not allowed solid food.

We are not family, so very little information is given to us. Another incident occurred earlier this year or it may have been late last year, James had a bootie on one of his feet. It was either broken or sprained, and again we could not learn exactly what had happened. If I remember correctly, James was very drugged and we were unable to understand him at that time. James has been to the hospital several times within the past twelve months. He has told us he is neglected.

We are very concerned for James' safety and that if the home learns about this letter, it may be taken out on him. He is in a truly vulnerable position and needs someone to check in on his care. He has a

sister who placed him there (James told us), yet she has never visited him nor does anyone else except my sister and I.

I would appreciate anything your office can do to look into James' care, as we feel helpless to be able to do much to help him other than to notify your office and to visit him. If this is not the correct location to send this concern to, please let me know if you know where to direct this concern. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Richardson".

Carol Richardson

1118 Wildwood West Street

Elgin, SC 29045

(803) 729-4272