

Dear Honorable Nikki R Hailey,

I'm writing you this letter to inform you of the health practices that are being done at the Spartanburg Treatment Center in Spartanburg SC. My son is a recovering addict and in today's society that is very common. About 2 years ago he was admitted to a rehab center in Florida and was there for 6 weeks. When he returned home he had a relapse and decided to go to Spartanburg Treatment Associates in Spartanburg, SC to get help. He continued going there for about 2 years and during this time he requested them to taper his dose down and discontinue methadone so he could go on with his life and maybe attend college. The counselor told him that was not a good idea so he continued going paying 83.00 a week. He had to get jobs that would hire him being on methadone like 3rd shift or jobs he was overqualified for because many employers will not hire you if you are taking this. He became depressed because this was the only jobs he could get. He again relapsed and lost his job and the insurance would no longer reimburse him for the medication they told him he would have to get a letter of appeal and get the doctor to write a letter stating it was medically necessary for him to be on this medication. He didn't lose insurance coverage because of his job loss, he is still on our insurance. After his many attempts to get the letter at the clinic he was unsuccessful. So at that point I called the clinic to see if they would write the letter and informed them without the letter he can no longer come, because we cannot afford this I also have another child to take care of, they told me to tell him to come up there and they would talk to him. When he got there they told him they could not write the letter and it was not medically necessary for him to be on this medication after they preached to him when he wanted to taper he couldn't stop taking it and basically gave him the cold shoulder. He went back the next day to see if there was anyway they could at least taper him for 2 weeks so he wouldn't have to stop at once and they told him he would still have to pay. So he came home and went back with the change he had and they told him he would have to roll the change. After many attempts he just decided to stop without any tapering at all. I'm not sure if are aware of this drug and what effects it has on people that take it, but it has a lot of neurological effects on the body and can cause someone to resort to illegal drugs and possibly overdose. All he wants is to get his life back in order and possibly go to college and get a good job. He is very intelligent and I'm not saying this because he is my son, even the doctors and staff at the rehab center in Florida told me he was very intelligent. He made a mistake of a lifetime and has to pay for it now. We are currently trying to help him with the withdrawal at home and hope everyday he doesn't relapse and possibly overdose. I know you are a mother and would hate for this to happen to one of your own and would do everything possible to help. He just wants another chance to make everything right and get a good job and move on with his life but all the barriers keep him from doing so. I guess I just wanted to talk mother to mother about the biggest issue today and that is drug abuse. Until it affects your own family it's really hard to understand what a lot of us parents are going thru. I really wish there was more education for parents that are given at schools so they will see the signs of abuse before it's too late. I was one of those parents that never thought my own would even try drugs because that's all I preached about. But I feel if there was more information in the schools it would be beneficial. Joshua (my son) has said he would like to counsel other kids about drug addiction and show them the effects it has on him as well as the family. But you have to have a degree to do so. He's really trying and we are being as supportive as we can but I think it's going to have to be someone like you that has more power and the ability to educate people on this. Unfortunately he is no longer with us. Don't get me wrong there are some rehab clinics like the one in Florida that I was pleased with. I just feel this one is only for profit not recovery. I also wish there were more regulations for clinics like these, they let the patients make the decision on how high they think their dose should be. Please hear my voice. Thank you again for hearing my story.

Sincerely, Stacey Godfrey