

██████████
Corvallis, OR 97333

September 3, 2016

My son, ██████████, was arrested on September 2nd in Philomath for "failure to obey a traffic device, failure to signal appropriately and failure to drive within lane". He does not contest this, but pleads diminished capacity. His court date is September 23rd.

██████████ has suffered from schizoaffective disorder for 28 years. In the past three months he has been experiencing manic symptoms, paranoia and severe stress. He first tried to get himself admitted for inpatient treatment on August 14th. Instead **the county gave him two days in Janus House (respite care), after which they needed the space for someone else.** The second time (August 31st) he tried to get into the hospital, he and his psychiatrist, Dr. ██████████, had agreed that he needed inpatient care. But the ER only kept him overnight and next morning the county mental health representative judged that a night's sleep had made hospitalization unnecessary--although he was still showing paranoid symptoms and saying he was too fearful to return to his own home. **No respite care was offered.**

The third episode was on Sept. 4 when, unbeknownst to me, a friend of his had dropped him off at the ER. Again they refused him treatment, but gave him a prescription for Seroquel. It was late and it would not have been possible for him to fill it. They called him a taxi and he was taken to his house. By now he had lost his keys and his cell phone, so he broke through the back door and lay sleepless on the floor all night.

I resent that, when his psychiatrist and he and I all think he needs hospitalization or **at least the safety and oversight that respite care provides, he cannot get even that from Benton County.** And I resent that the county will overrule his psychiatrist. I am 75 years old and only his mother. I was not successful in preventing his driving in his compromised state. (Sometimes when symptomatic he thinks that if he can only get out of town he will feel safer; he was going to Summit, hence through Philomath.)

Obviously I will have to pay the fines and impoundment fee--ca. \$1340, as he lives on disability. Plus repairs to his house. We are fortunate that the outcome was not more tragic. But we are no closer to an end of this mental health episode and there is no help in sight.*

Yours truly,

Dianne Farrell

cc Dr. ██████████

cc Mitchell Anderson, Benton County Health Dept.

*On Sept. 5 the County's representative at the ER finally accepted ██████████ for inpatient treatment. By this time he had concrete suicide plans and had been carrying a knife to defend himself from "enemies". **A week or two of respite care early on might have prevented so much grief!**