

# FATE

FOUNDATION AIDING THE ELDERLY

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The following Victim Impact Statement was read in an Oregon Court at the sentencing of a Registered Nurse who was stealing the nursing home patient's Methadone, a drug being used for pain management. FATE was surprised and alarmed to learn of the use of this medication in nursing homes as it is normally given to addicts who are withdrawing from Heroin. The victim's daughter filed a complaint with the Oregon regulators, who unsubstantiated the complaint. She then contacted FATE for assistance and FATE filed another complaint with sufficient evidence that the drugs were not being given to the patient, which resulted in the finding that indeed this nurse was stealing the medications and false charting that he had given the medications to the patient.

Subsequently, he plead guilty and was sentence to prison and his nursing license was permanently revoked. FATE urges anyone who suspects that their loved ones' medications are being stolen to contact FATE.

Carole Herman  
FATE President

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## VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

Defendant: David Hamrin

DA Case #316005 (Betty Wight)

### 1. Describe the impact this crime has had on your life:

On Mother's Day, May 14, 2017, I sat helplessly beside my mother, listening to her cry out in pain as she was dying. I had to beg for medications to keep her comfortable, not knowing at that time her pain medications were being systematically stolen. Watching my mother die, moaning in agony will never ever be erased from my mind. I continue to have nightmares. My mother died a horrible death within a medical facility that should have been easing her pain. I constantly go over what could have been done differently; how I could have protected my mother from those who were supposed to be caring for her. Little did I know then, that not only was David Hamrin not providing basic care for my mother, he was stealing her medications to use for himself. David Hamrin caused irreparable harm and attempted to cover it up by falsifying medical records. Even now, over two years later, I am unable to move forward. I am heartbroken that my mother wasn't able to know that my son graduated from college; she wasn't able to know that her granddaughter was married; and she wasn't able to see her other grandson's accomplishments. All these events were denied her because David Hamrin had an addiction to the medications my mother needed to live. My mother was in excruciating pain because she went through withdrawals from not receiving her medication as prescribed, not once (before she was admitted to the hospital), but twice (after she was re-admitted to Linda Vista). Not only did my mother not receive her medications she needed for pain, she was overdosed on other medications to keep her quiet. My mother was in a coma-like state when I arrived at Linda Vista about 10 p.m. on Monday, April 24, 2017, to check on her welfare—so much so that I thought she had a stroke. When I arrived

at Linda Vista, I found mom sitting in a chair with a dirty towel over her blouse. She was drooling and unable to speak. She was sitting in her own urine. I asked David Hamrin to call an ambulance immediately. He told me there was “nothing wrong” with mom—she was “always like that.” Again, I had to ask that he call 911. David Hamrin then told me that if she went to the hospital without a doctor’s order, I would be responsible for the costs. I had to insist that he obtain a doctor’s order and call an ambulance. When David Hamrin finally called for an ambulance and the medics arrived, I overheard him tell the medics that there was nothing wrong with mom. Only after almost a year of investigations did I come to find out that David Hamrin didn’t want mom to receive emergency care because the resulting lab tests would uncover his theft of her medications. He was perfectly willing to let my mother die in her chair that night rather than to have his crimes exposed. That choice alone speaks to David Hamrin’s criminality and his total disrespect for the life of another human being.

## **2. What do you think would be an appropriate sentence for the court to impose?**

David Hamrin should be sentenced to prison time and never allowed back into the nursing profession. Though he may have no prior convictions, it’s not because he wasn’t victimizing other helpless patients at Linda Vista and perhaps at other nursing institutions. I have no doubt he has countless victims. These elderly patients are the most vulnerable individuals in our society, who had no choice but to trust in him for their care. He betrayed their trust in one of the most abhorrent ways possible. It will never be known how many elderly patients died because of David Hamrin’s criminal behavior. The only reason he may show any remorse at all is because he was finally caught. The fact that he went to such great lengths to cover up his crime, including falsifying records and being willing to let my mother die rather than to allow her to obtain needed care at the hospital, suggests he doesn’t understand what it means to be a decent human being. At the very least, any sentence he receives should preclude him from ever caring for our elderly, or anyone for that matter, ever again.

## **3. Is there anything else you would like to say?**



This is how we found our family photo days after our mother passed away at Linda Vista. Hours after my mother’s untimely death, our mother’s few belongings were carelessly packed into cardboard boxes and thrown into the basement at Linda Vista. Linda Vista was unwilling to wait less than 12 hours for us to return and remove mom’s items, as we assured them we would. I am totally devastated, not only because I lost my mother to a fate worse than death, but because I lost my mom to those who valued the dollar over life. I lost my mom to the greedy, to the apathetic, the weak, and to the criminal. I lost my mom to those who cared more about the bottom line than life. My mother’s last days were filled with fear and intense pain. The helplessness I felt and still feel is overwhelming. I watched as my mom died in pain. I watched as my mother died in fear. She died within an institution that cared only about the next paying customer; within an institution who wanted an empty room to fill with another victim.

I lost so much more than my mother the day mom passed away. I lost my trust in institutions and facilities in place to help and care for the elderly. I lost my faith in knowing that I could trust that the value of a human life would be placed over the value of a dollar. I lost my faith in everything I hold sacred. I have lost faith in humanity.

Definitive corrective action by our legal system is the only way these horrific abuses can be stopped. We all need to take a long hard look at this case and the impact these crimes against the elderly have on our society. One day we all may be in the position to need care and be required to trust our caregivers. We can do better.

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