

Dear Clay,

2/20/99

I can't even keep track of the dates! But if anything were required to let me know that I'm not as tough, as durable as in the past, it was the past two days! Friday the Medicare repossession of the hospital bed ordered for Lil, then Lil yesterday and the day before and then what I really came apart on, just could not function on, was what you did in the Badly Reasoned retyping at 344, copies, I hope of what you need, enclosed.

There was no questions about Lil's need of a hospital bed and it was prescribed and paid for by Medicare. Likewise she required a special chair, \$700, that I paid for but for which Medicare was to repay me- and hasn't. But Medicare has a regulation, and as you know, official regulations can be pretty inflexible, that requires the repossession of hospital beds that were prescribed and were paid for if they are not in use. Lil required another operation, then made into two, and then was sent to a nursing home for rebuilding, and the bed is repossessed. To be replaced when she is home again, what we do look forward to. In this Medicare will have spent more than the bed costs. In it we also gave a fine bed away and if Lil does not come home will have to replace it. The man who picked it up for the Baltimore company Medicare used was in too large a truck. He pulled in our lane, oblivious of the branches he was breaking off the pines and of the damage to branches that did not break off, and when he saw he could not turn around, he backed out of the lane and then backed into it, which save him about 20 feet of carrying what was no problem to carry because it weighed little or had wheels. Except for the mattress. As he took the bed apart he knock all sorts of things down and left them for me to pick up. He also made a stout cane I'm not using unsafe to use. And then he left, having inflicted more damage on those fine trees in backing in and pulling out. Not easy to take. Abuse of patients Medicare was to help and is without thought about the patient and what this regulation does to the patient and the patient's family. Especially with irresponsible contractors and subcontractors.

Lil has show a bit of paranoia as she continues being a different person. She actually told Jerry and me that the nursing home is experimenting on her. She reached that conclusion because she could not identify some of the pills she was given. Did she ask what they are? No. She just assumed she was being experimented on. Worriesome, really worriesome. She has been in pain for more than two solid weeks but she has not been told what causes the pain (and again has not asked) and the doctors I've asked have stonewalled. So, I've made an appointment with the family doctor for tomorrow and hope he can tell me or will be willing to find out and tell me. And that, having agreed more than a month ago that Lil needs a real

examination by a psychiatrist, with which at least one other doctor also agreed, I'll ask him to send one to Hil when I am there to be sure that the truth is evaluated, not what with her mind twisted by the brain clot or its removal comes out and she thinks is true when it isn't. But whether or not it is so, the silence of some of the doctors and of the hospital makes it easy to suspect negligence, most likely at one of the nursing homes the hospital used, if not at two of them.

The use of color is impressive in the retyping but when those we know who will ~~not~~ print the diskettes they'll get cannot reproduce that color, impressive as it is on two copies, your copy and mine, it is not worth the time and the aggravation of two hours before I gave up trying to figure out what you had by accident omitted in getting that color in and finally gave up on it. I made copies of the three different 344 pages ~~you~~ provided and of the original retyping, I think and hope of all you'll need to get it straight.

Until I came to this confusion at 344 I had in mind telling you to make the other corrections on the disk and letting it go at that but the Evelyn one needs to be correct so when you've made all the corrections, I'll include them in the file corrected copy.

I think the first nursing home let Hil fall while she was washing and when she was to have been held by a belt and wasn't. That seems to be the probably cause of the blood clot on the brain. The second nursing home may have pushed her a bit too much in physical therapy because the constant pain is since then. It seems, and I checked this with two sets of nurses, that the hospital did not inform that nursing home of the fall Hil had and of the hip operations it required. I can only wonder if that is because the fall is a case of negligence.

thanks and best,

Harold