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## **The Red House on Mississippi: One Year After the Forcible Removal Kinney Father Fights for His Life Due to Discrimination and Negligent Medical Practices**

**[Portland, Ore.]** The September 9, 2020 forced removal may be the last time the patriarch of the Kinney family set foot in his childhood home. On the evening of Wednesday, August 25, 2021 William Kinney Jr. was rushed to the Legacy Emanuel Medical Center by ambulance after his family found him unresponsive in bed. When medics arrived at the scene the Kinney family was hopeful for a speedy recovery after seeing him receive oxygen and noticing movement of his legs and eyes. The family was told that no one would be able to accompany William to the hospital due to COVID-19 restrictions. Kinney's two sons, Will and Michael, arrived at the Legacy Emanuel Medical Center upon their father's arrival.

Will and Michael pleaded with staff to allow them to stay alongside their dad to support their father due to his unresponsiveness and were immediately denied. After a long struggle with hospital staff and security, the oldest son Will, the designated advocate, was demanded to leave the hospital. His youngest son Michael was finally permitted access to wait with his father in the emergency room. Michael entered the room to find that his father had already been sedated and intubated. Michael sat with his unconscious father while awaiting test results to discover the extent of his father's condition. Doctors confirmed that William had not experienced a stroke but needed to be admitted into the intensive care unit (ICU) for further treatment. Michael was directed to leave the premises once his father was admitted to the ICU.

The family later found out that due to the nature of Kinney's illness they were denied the right to accompany their loved one which was in violation according to the Oregon Legislative Senate Bill 1606, which requires all hospitals to allow patients with cognitive conditions the right to have family support to help communicate with hospital staff and make important health care decisions. Nevertheless, the family urged the medical providers to call the designated family member for any changes in his status, no matter the time of day.

The family was not notified until the following morning, August 26, 2021 at approximately 10 AM, when receiving a call from Dr. Christopher Ginnocchio stating that Kinney experienced a "downturn" at approximately 4 AM. A critical series of events took place that night where significant damage to Kinney's brain occurred. A radiologist who reviewed the CT scans pointed out what appeared to be a blood clot. After reviewing a CT scan taken at 3:23 AM, which clearly showed areas of damage from stroke to the brain, Dr. Alexandra Dimitrova, the responsible neurologist at the time, who was working remotely, made the critical decision not to treat the blood clot or order an MRI, instead requesting a follow up CT scan 6 hours later.

Dr. Ginnocchio also reviewed the prior scans and disagreed with Dimitrova's method of treatment, informing the family of the need to perform an emergency procedure to remove a blood clot in William's lower brain stem.

Post-surgery the family received a call from the hospital that the blood clot in his lower brain stem was successfully removed. The family eagerly awaited further communication from the hospital in hopes to hear that William was on the road to recovery, but no such call ever happened.

On Friday, August 28, 2021 the family received a call from the hospital with the most devastating news imaginable. The family was told that William would never fully recover due to a horrendous amount of permanent damage to his brain that would leave him with poor quality of life and a likely chance he may never gain consciousness again.

Since the time of admission there was either conflicting reports from multiple doctors and nurses, or an intentional lack of communication, with days on end where the Kinney family was constantly calling to find out the status of their loved one, placed on hold for long wait times, each time being informed that a doctor would need to get back to them. For example, the family had one conversation with Dr. Dimitrova who stated that William had been unconscious and the damage was present since the time of admission. The family was later informed that charts noted that William was responding to commands during examination prior to being sedated and receiving ventilator support.

On Tuesday, August 31, 2021 the family participated in a conference call with Dr. Deng, an ICU Medical Doctor and Dr. North, a member of the neurological team, to discuss Kinney's current health status. During the call, the family raised concerns about the negligence and malpractice that the Kinney father received. To the shock of the Kinney family, having thought that they hung up the phone after the call with the Kinneys, the two doctors started to engage in deplorable political rhetoric regarding the Kinney family.

The phone conversation overheard made direct correlations between their patient and "The Red House on Mississippi", the providers proceeded to make disturbing comments about the laws that protected their negligence. Remarks were made about landlords not having rights, dangers of living in the area, and having their children attend private school. Another unidentifiable provider laughingly insinuated the hospital bill would be so high, the Kinney family would not be able to get their home back. Drs North and Deng later concluded plans to directly blame COVID-19 for their negligent care.

These providers showed that their political biases and discriminatory view interferes with their ability to provide proper medical care in life-saving situations. This sort of behavior coming from medical professionals raises not only ethical concerns about what is to be the "standard of care" but also shines light on a discriminatory classist temperament secretly held amongst medical professionals whom we are supposed to trust with our lives.

The Kinney family will be releasing the audio of this devastating dialogue to the public. We must hold our doctors to their hippocratic oath to provide quality care to all.

The Afro-Indigenous Kinney family chose to stand up against gentrification and fraudulent banking practices in order to keep their ancestral home, which is seated in close proximity to the hospital. It is a known fact that Emanuel hospital has a controversial past in playing a direct role in the displacement of African-American families, who once had a home where the medical center sits today. As if the long standing fight against systematic racism and displacement isn't enough, the family has now been led to believe that the patriarch of the Kinney family is fighting for his life due to a group of providers who don't believe in equitable treatment.

September 9, 2021 marks one year since Multnomah County Sheriffs entered the Afro-Indigenous Kinney family's home located on Mississippi Ave in Portland, forcibly removing the family at gunpoint amidst a worldwide pandemic, statewide eviction moratorium and during the deadly wildfires. Community supporters gathered near the Legacy Emanuel Medical Center for a candlelit vigil on the evening of Sept. 9th to provide support to the Kinney family on this emotional day. Currently the family

is still in negotiations with Roman Ozeruga and Urban Housing Development to conclude the return of the house to the Kinney family.

Please stand with the Kinney family. If you have received similar treatment from these trained professionals at the Legacy Emanuel Medical Center, or know someone who has, send us an email at [redhouseonmississippi@gmail.com](mailto:redhouseonmississippi@gmail.com).

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