

OFFICIAL COMPLAINT – MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE, MALPRACTICE, AND VIOLATION OF RIGHTS

Patient: Snyder López (Deceased)

Parents: Mercedes Zepeda López and David López

This complaint is filed to document the severe medical negligence, abuse, malpractice, and violations of the rights of my son, Snyder López, who tragically died on October 7, 2024, as a direct consequence of actions, omissions, and misconduct by the Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA).

1. ADMINISTRATION OF AMPHETAMINES WITHOUT CONSENT

On September 15, 2023, Snyder tested positive for amphetamines. He was a minor with autism, undergoing oncology treatment. The administration of such a dangerous drug was never authorized by his parents. After that administration, Snyder exhibited changes in behavior: extreme sleepiness, facial injuries, constricted pupils, aggression, altered mental state, and loss of recognition. This was the beginning of a prolonged psychotic crisis.

2. ABUSE OF FORCE AND PHYSICAL RESTRAINTS

The hospital's social worker ordered that Snyder's father be forcibly removed from the room, despite Snyder's autism condition, which requires familiarity and parental presence. Four security guards restrained Snyder by his arms and legs, tied him against his will, and allowed the social worker to inject powerful sedatives without parental consent or explanation. This violated Snyder's rights as a child with disabilities.

3. FAILURE TO PROVIDE NUTRITION AND MEDICAL CARE

Snyder went eight full days without food, water, or intravenous nutrition. Requests from his mother for urgent nutritional support were ignored by medical staff. Snyder was left isolated with his mother, without family visits allowed, and under inhumane conditions. This deprivation contributed directly to his deterioration.

4. COVER-UP OF POSITIVE DRUG TESTS

Despite Snyder testing positive multiple times for amphetamines and other substances, hospital staff, including social workers and psychiatrists, repeatedly dismissed the results as "false positives." An internal nurse showed computer records of these positive results, yet no official investigation was initiated. The hospital denied evidence to law enforcement when the mother requested a police investigation.

5. VIOLATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS AND DISABILITY RIGHTS

The hospital consistently ignored the parental authority of Mercedes Zepeda López and David López. No consent was requested before administering high-risk medications. Family visits were banned, leaving the mother isolated for 8 days caring for her psychotic child. These actions represent violations of state, federal, and international protections for children with disabilities, including those with autism.

6. COVER-UP AND RETALIATION

Patient advocacy complaints were either dismissed or redirected. Instead of acknowledging negligence, hospital staff misreported issues (such as supposed oncological relapse) while omitting critical facts about amphetamine exposure. Later, the family faced retaliation: they were expelled from the hospital,

denied medical records (often delivered blank or incomplete), and threatened with arrest if they tried to access them.

7. HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION DURING PROTESTS

After Snyder's death, the parents protested peacefully outside CHLA. In retaliation, security guards and supervisors harassed them: blocking sidewalks with trucks, summoning police to shut down microphones, forbidding family support, and even sending threatening letters. The head of hospital security dispatched guards to deliver a threatening letter to the family's home, directed to Mercedes Zepeda López and her son Geyser Velázquez. Photographs of the family home were taken in clear acts of intimidation.

CONCLUSION

This case reflects systemic negligence, lack of ethical medical care, child abuse, disability rights violations, medical malpractice, and obstruction of justice. Snyder López endured unimaginable suffering caused by those entrusted with his care. His parents demand justice, accountability, and immediate access to all complete medical records from 2013 through 2024.

Submitted by:

Mercedes Zepeda López

David López