

Dear Delegate Sheree Sample Hughes

I am writing as Power of Attorney for Mr. Robert Smith to clearly document the sequence of events following February 5, 2026, incident at Manokin Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center and to request urgent oversight.

On February 5, Administrator Theresa Hershey physically pushed my father, Robert Smith, multiple times while simultaneously calling him inappropriate names in what witnesses describe as deliberate verbal provocation. Multiple individuals observed the incident, and written witness statements have been provided to the facility.

My father has a documented diagnosis of dementia. After being physically pushed and verbally taunted, he reacted defensively. He did not initiate the confrontation.

The Princess Anne Sheriff's Office Deputy Nguyen responded first and determined there was no probable cause for arrest or emergency petition evaluation. A second law enforcement agency was then contacted. Maryland State Police decided to transport him to TidalHealth under the emergency petition to evaluate.

On February 7, 2026, TidalHealth discharged him. The treating clinician documented that my father did not meet criteria for inpatient psychiatric admission.

Medical professionals determined he was not a danger requiring hospitalization.

After that documented discharge, the facility's social worker, Courtney contacted the hospital questioning why he had been released.

Despite medical clearance:

Criminal charges were filed against a dementia patient.

A temporary peace order was issued.

The judge declined to remove him from the nursing facility.

The facility nevertheless issued a 30-day involuntary discharge.

Placement was arranged nearly two hours away from his family to a location that allegedly the administrator Theresa Hershey came from.

Legal and discharge documents were served directly on him without prior notification to me as his legally designated Power of Attorney.

In response to protect my father rights

I filed a peace order and criminal complaint to protect him from further physical aggression.

I'm concerned and believe the progression is clear and escalating and even more concerning is what did not occur.

Following an incident involving a cognitively impaired resident, there was no meaningful interdisciplinary care conference initiated to reassess his behavioral care plan. There was no documented effort to review or adjust his existing medication regimen to determine whether clinical intervention, de-escalation strategies, or behavioral support adjustments were warranted.

Courtney, the facility social worker, and Cheryl, the ombudsman involved in this matter, failed to facilitate a structured plan to address behavioral triggers, review medications, or implement protective interventions before the situation escalated to law enforcement involvement, criminal charges, and discharge proceedings.

In a dementia patient, appropriate response should involve reassessment, medication review, care planning, and de-escalation, not provocation, criminalization, and relocation.

The physical and verbal provocation, to emergency petition pursued. In spite of Tidalhealth hospital discharge for not meeting criteria. The facility questioning the discharge, to criminal charges filed against him requesting him to be removed as a dementia patient however the judge refused to remove him. Despite all the above, the facility still moved to involuntary discharge anyway.

This matter involves alleged physical aggression by facility leadership toward a vulnerable dementia patient, corroborated by witnesses, followed by escalating legal and discharge actions despite medical and judicial findings.

Whether characterized as actual harm or immediate jeopardy, the documented pattern warrants immediate and thorough review.

I respectfully request confirmation of the current investigative status of this complaint and the steps being taken to ensure resident safety and compliance with nursing home regulations. This is not an isolated dispute. It is a documented sequence of escalating actions against a vulnerable adult.

Sincerely,

Barbara Dale

Power of Attorney for Mr. Robert Smith

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