



National Shattering Silence Coalition (NSSC) is an alliance of diverse individuals and organizations who are uniting to ensure that mental illness, health, and criminal justice systems count those with serious mental illness (SMI), serious emotional disturbance (SED), and their families in all federal, state, and local policy reforms. We are voices for the 10 million adults and 7 million children living with and dying too young from serious mental illness.

June 26, 2018

Warden Walker Clemmons
Santa Rosa Correctional Institution
5850 East Milton Road
Milton, FL 32583-7914

Dear Warden Clemmons,

Our coalition is deeply concerned about the well-being of Kristopher Rodriguez (DC# C07499). It is our understanding that Mr. Rodriguez is an inmate in the Florida Department of Corrections (DOC) and has been for almost 10 years. We are told that he is currently being held at Santa Rosa CI. Mr. Rodriguez was diagnosed with schizophrenia as a youth. During his incarceration in the Florida DOC, he has suffered tremendously due to his psychosis. Kristopher Rodriguez has a serious brain disorder, and our concern is that he is not receiving proper care and continues to suffer enormously.

Earlier in 2018, while being held at Lake CI, Rodriguez' prescribed psychiatric medications were discontinued for unrevealed reasons. His medical condition quickly deteriorated. Psychiatric medications that are prescribed by a doctor should be considered life-sustaining for someone like Rodriguez; without them, further damage to the brain can occur.¹

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4197783/>

Gemma Pena, Rodriguez' mother, is being unlawfully denied information about her son's current medical condition. Gemma has followed proper channels to access this information and has full legal rights to such information because she retains Medical Power of Attorney over Rodriguez' care.

Our coalition respectfully asks that Gemma Pena be able to visit her son and be allowed access to vital information about him to ensure that he is receiving the appropriate care. We also urge you to have Rodriguez transferred to a forensic hospital where he can finally be given proper treatment for his serious brain disorder prior to his release in December.

Sincerely,

NSSC

cc: Julie Jones - Secretary, Florida Department of Corrections
Ms. Kady Hall - Medical Director, Santa Rosa Correctional Facility
Governor Rick Scott

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