

Supporting Document

I have a son, he was born in 1971. He has suffered from schizophrenia, and was in and out of jail. Ten years ago he was attacked violently in [REDACTED]. The doctors said he had been stabbed so many times they were unable to tell. When this happened, his brain moved, and could never get better. It has gotten worse.

There's no place for him. No hospital, it's too dangerous for him to be outside. He could be run over by a car. It feels as though there's no one to help him, only me.

He has struggled to find suitable accommodation and has had a number of run in's with police. He used to live with me, and they took him off me and housed him by himself after I had a heart attack. He can't look after himself, he needs me to be there to tell him have a shower. Sometimes he gets angry with me, and tries to attack me. Now he can't come to my place, but I can go anywhere to see him.

We go to the [REDACTED] hospital to get him his injection, and they have four or five security for him there. However, there's no security for me, and I have to look after him 24 hours a day. I know there's a lot of other mother's like me, but it's just not fair.

The system needs to change so there are hospitals for people like my son. There are too many people like him on the streets, and this isn't right. I am from Greece, where we have mental health hospitals for sick people. Here, we don't and I don't know why this.

If I die, and I am 73, who is going to take care of him? We need to change the system so there's a hospital for people like my son. The hospital only lets you stay for one or two nights, but he needs support for his whole life.

Sometimes he will catch the tram to the city, and ask people to use their phone so he can call me, and it will get him into fight. The police will be called and he will end up back in the courts.

Another incident was when he wasn't living with me, and I had a Community Intervention Order, and he breached it by coming over. He was threatening and we had to call the ambulance, they sent police, and then he was arrested for breaching the order. I went to court to argue that he was very sick, and he had recently been discharged from the hospital. He had recently spent over a week unconscious in the [REDACTED]. I took him home, he couldn't walk or go up stairs, and the hospital promised me to give him housing near my house. I had urged them to find him accommodation nearby my house, and they were unable. This matter is still before the courts.

We're talking about very sick people. They need to have somewhere they can go, not the streets. My son's organs collapsed while in intensive care. He has so many medicines he needs to take, but someone needs to be there to make sure he takes them. The current system just isn't working.