

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
ORLANDO DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

CASE NO. 6:22-cr-00201-WWB-LHP

EVAN EDWARDS

**JOINT STATUS REPORT REGARDING MEDICAL CONDITION AND
RELEASE STATUS**

COME NOW the United States of America by Roger B. Handberg, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, and A. Brian Phillips, counsel for defendant, Evan Edwards, and in accordance with this Court's directive (Doc. 60), hereby file this joint status report and state:

1. On January 26, 2023, the Court directed the parties to file a joint status report regarding the Defendant's medical condition and release status.

2. In accordance with that directive, the undersigned AUSA has been in contact with the USMS, a representative from the Orange County Jail, and a representative from the Orlando Regional Medical Center (the "Provider") to obtain and confirm the information set forth below.

I. The Defendant's Medical Condition

Attached as Sealed Exhibit A is a Progress Note from the Provider, which summarizes the Defendant's medical condition. Additionally, according to the Health Services Administrator with the Orange County Jail, who has access to the Defendant's medical chart and has been in contact with the Provider, the Defendant

requires 24-hour daily care due to the complexity of his medical issues and would require the same level of continued care upon his release from the Provider.

II. The Defendant's Release Status

The medical records indicate that the Defendant has been cleared for discharge from the hospital since December 20, 2022. However, due to the complexity of the Defendant's medical issues, the USMS, despite its diligent efforts, has been unable to find a local facility that will agree to house the Defendant. Specifically, the following facilities have refused to house the Defendant due to the level of ongoing care that the Defendant requires: Orange County Correctional Facility, John E. Polk Correctional Facility, Marion County Jail, Sumter County Jail, Citrus County Detention Facility, Hernando County Detention Center, and Pinellas County Jail. All of these facilities have indicated an inability to provide the level of care required by the Defendant.

Additionally, the undersigned AUSA spoke directly to the Health Services Administrator with the Orange County Jail, who explained that the Defendant is currently bedbound and would require total daily care (intervention at least every hour or two hours; and assistance with daily living tasks, including a feeding tube, among other things). According to that Administrator, OCJ is unable to safely provide that level of complex care twenty-four hours a day.

While no local facility has agreed to house the Defendant, USMS received notice that the Defendant has been accepted into the "Just Care" program, a program for inmates with complex medical issues. As part of that program, the Defendant has

been designated to Columbia Regional Care Center in Columbia, South Carolina. The Defendant has not yet been scheduled for transport.

III. Position of the Defense

The existence of and admission to the Just Care program was disclosed to the defense this afternoon. Consequently, the defense has not had the opportunity to assess the suitability of the program. The foregoing notwithstanding, according to Defendant's family, the family has been trained to care for him at home as a result of his medical conditions which came to light last summer. Further, the necessity for a feeding tube has not been confirmed by the defense. It is of note that the family's training includes handling his activities of daily living, including his feeding, bathroom needs, and personal cleanliness. As may be gleaned from the prior submission by the defense, the defense's position is that his release to his family's care is the better choice than moving the defendant more than 430 miles from Orlando. The defense would note that the logistical challenges presented by such a move are patent.

IV. Position of the Government

Based on information in the medical records and the Competency Evaluation Report prepared by Dr. Hall, the Government's position is that release to the Defendant's family is inappropriate.

WHEREFORE, the parties comply with this Court's directive and submit the instant Joint Status Report.

Respectfully submitted,

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