

April 7th, 23

Dear Honorable Ben Brooks III,

My name is Andrea Brantley and I write to you regarding Dr. J. Nakha. I know him as a colleague. I was a nurse practitioner for Alabama Orthopaedic Clinic during 2017 - 2021. I would see hospital consultants then assign the patients to the appropriate physician / specialty. There were times our spine + trauma surgeons would ask me to get in touch with Dr. Nakha to care for patients that would do better under his care. I can say he never told me no + would accept transfers to his care. This then leads me to a circumstance I'll never forget + I believe truly shines a light on his character. One Friday at Springhill Medical Hospital, I saw a patient that needed emergent spinal surgery. Due to an infection to his spine, he had to be sedated, a breathing tube placed, + admitted to ICU the night before. It just so happened my two

ortho spine physicians were traveling that day to a conference. I called our neurosurgeons affiliated with the hospital & they refused because they weren't "on call". I spoke with Dr Nahkla & he said he would accept transfer to Mobile Infirmary. However, once I tried to make it happen, was told no by hospital because they were full & on diversion. USA hospital was as well. I was so frustrated with this. I elevated it to the vice president of Springhill hospital. He decided to offer emergency privileges to Dr Nahkla, if he would come to Springhill. I asked & without hesitation, he agreed. I was there as he met & comforted the family & took the patient to surgery. After the successful, lifesaving surgery, he asked me, "Andrea, do you think I'll get paid for this?" And before I could even respond, he smiled warmly and said "Nah, it's OK if I don't. Happy to help!"

This man will have been a nurse for 20 years. When I tell you will never ever forget that day, it should tell you something. Not many physicians would do what he did. A Friday, not on call, not affiliated with Springhill Hospital, & didn't even expect to get paid.

I was there the day that he met the VP of the hospital, Paul Reas. One thing that stuck out was he mentioned how he met his wife Sally at a church retreat in Destin. At that point it made sense to me, his act of kindness. He is a Christian.

I know Johnny Nether can be of use & help anyone no matter where he is, but I ask for mercy to be extended to him when you sentence him. He has two young sons & I believe now more than ever, kids need a father in the home. People also need highly trained & skilled neurosurgeons, as we are

in a time of physician shortage.
I truly believe & trust you
can come up with a sentence
that is fair to Samantha's family,
but also one that is helpful
to the community such as free
surgeries, talks on DUIs, physician
talks to other physicians on this
tragedy, etc. As well as help
two young boys have their
father.

I now live in Pensacola, ~~Fla~~
doing ER medicine at Baptist ER
as well as aesthetics. If you
would like to call me regarding
the circumstance, I can
elaborate more. I have a work
meeting April 20th I cannot get
out of. I did travel to Mobile
during jury selection & closing
arguments. I do understand
the severity of the case/actions.

Thank you for taking time to read,
Candice Brantley (251) 654.1717