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Mother says she's unfairly barred by nursing home

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CHICO — Ailing and elderly, Gladys McManaman says she's miserable because a nursing home has limited the time she can visit her disabled daughter.

McManaman's 61-year-old daughter, Patricia, who can neither walk nor talk, lives at Riverside Convalescent Hospital in Chico.

Gladys McManaman, 85, said the nursing home's administration will only let her visit Patricia between 9 a.m. and noon on weekdays.

There are no exceptions, she said. She couldn't visit on Mother's Day, Easter or her daughter's

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HOME: Time limited

From 1A

birthday.

And if she stays a bit longer than the three hours she's allowed, a staff member will tell her sharply, "It's four minutes past noon — you have to go!" she said. "It's hateful."

The nursing home's administrator, Joe Micelli, did not return phone calls made to inquire about the situation.

McManaman's lawyer, Joe Earley of Paradise, said Riverside officials claim the mother is a danger to her daughter, but they raise only vague fears.

Earley said he doesn't accept that story. He's convinced the facility's administration is retaliating against McManaman for filing complaints about the place.

"She's got a lot to complain about," he said.

McManaman said she's lodged complaints with the state Department of Public Health about Patricia's care, but that the regulators always seem to side with the nursing home.

She said Patricia has had many falls and has often been neglected by the staff. Also, the facility has not responded quickly when her daughter has needed medical care, she said.

McManaman, who has lived in Chico for many years and worked as an X-ray technician,

said Patricia was born with severe disabilities.

She said she took care of her daughter at home for 27 years, but after she was divorced, she had to return to work, and Patricia was institutionalized.

Patricia has lived at Riverside since about 1995, McManaman said, except for a few months in 2007, when she brought her home.

Taking her home was a mistake, McManaman admitted. The elderly woman became ill and was in the hospital for months, and her daughter had to return to the nursing home.

McManaman said she had been Patricia's conservator. But while she was in the hospital, her conservatorship was taken away, and the Public Guardian became the conservator. That seems to have left her without any rights concerning her daughter, she said.

Asked about suggestions she was interfering with the facility's care of Patricia and even putting her at risk, and that she had been hostile toward the staff, McManaman said there's some truth in them.

There was an incident where her daughter fell and was injured when she'd been involved in helping to move her between her bed and a wheelchair, she said. "I feel very bad about it."

And she admits she's gotten

BACKGROUND: Patricia McManaman, 61, who is severely disabled, has lived at Riverside Convalescent Hospital for most of the last 14 years, according to her mother, Gladys.

WHAT'S NEW: Gladys McManaman says the nursing home allows her to visit her daughter only between 9 a.m. and noon on weekdays. She claims Riverside is retaliating for complaints she has made about the facility.

WHAT'S NEXT: McManaman hopes a lawsuit she filed against the nursing home will end the restrictions on her visiting.

mad at times when Patricia was neglected or given improper care at the nursing home, she said.

But can she be blamed for that, she asked. With her medical background, she quickly spots many things that are being done wrong.

She said Riverside's treatment of her is highly unfair and unfair to her daughter.

"She knows me, she responds to me," McManaman said. "I would think more than anyone, they would welcome my being there so I could alert them to what her needs are."

She said she's prohibited from doing just about anything for her daughter. She can't even comb Patricia's hair without



Ty Barbour/Staff Photo

Gladys McManaman poses with her dog Joey on June 4.

worrying a staff member might come in and reprimand her, she said.

The only thing she's allowed to do is her daughter's laundry — something the facility is happy to have her do, she said.

McManaman recently filed a lawsuit against Riverside, hoping to win more visiting time, but she said she is frustrated at how long that is taking.

What Riverside is doing is clearly illegal, but it's done by nursing homes quite often, said

Pat McGinnis, director of the San Francisco-based California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform.

McGinnis said patients' families have the right to visit whenever they want, although they don't always realize this.

McManaman said she's not in good health and, at her age, wonders how long she'll live and what will become of her daughter if she should die.

"In the last years of my life, I sure didn't expect this," she said.