

Role: Patient's sibling

You are the younger sibling of a 15-year-old male with a supposed history of autism. You both recently walked from Ecuador to the United States. Upon arrival, you were placed in a government run camp for unaccompanied minors. At the shelter, your brother was noted to be very aggressive (smashing his head against the wall and attacking the guards), so they brought him to the emergency room for “neurological work-up.” He was admitted to the inpatient pediatric acute care ward, for medical clearance or to await inpatient psychiatric placement, however he immediately became dysregulated and violent towards himself and the staff.

In this exercise you will pretend to talk to the other participants over the phone. They will begin by calling you to tell you that they recently had to call a security code on your sibling, and many security guards apparently barged into his room and pinned him down, while they gave him intramuscular sedatives. They want to send him to the PICU for closer monitoring and continuous sedation while they complete his medical work up. When asked, you will recount the patient's childhood. Your parents died when the patient was 3 years old. You were both then raised by your grandparents who died when your brother was 10. You have done all you can to keep him safe, however he only attended school for a short period before being dismissed for his behavioral issues, at the age of 8 years.

In this exercise, agree with whatever the providers recommend and just tell them you want what's best for your brother.