

Award-winning nurse claims he was fired after daughter got cancer

By Jamie Bullen 18:55, 25 APR 2017 News

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An award-winning nurse claims he was fired from a care home after telling bosses his five-year-old daughter had cancer.

Daniel McCarthy, 42, has filed a lawsuit against Daleview Care Center in Farmingdale, New York, after he was reportedly dismissed for "insubordination".

According to court documents, seen by the New York Daily News, Mr McCarthy enjoyed work at the nursing home until his eldest daughter Cassidy was diagnosed with Stage 4 kidney cancer.

He said he was sacked for insubordination in December after he questioned why a white employee, who broke the same rule as a black worker, was served a lenient punishment.

But months before his dismissal, he alleged he was unfairly treated by bosses after they learned of his daughter's illness.

According to the lawsuit, Mr McCarthy "expected sympathy and understanding from Daleview, but instead the center and its management responded with hostility."

Mr McCarthy claims requests to spend time with his daughter were met with "push-back" and that they tried to make him use paid sick leave instead of earned holiday.

He also alleged his dismissal left him with no insurance to fund Cassidy's treatments which are now reportedly being covered by a charity until Mr McCarthy starts his new job.

Law firm Wigdor LLP, representing Mr McCarthy, said in a statement: "As his need for time off increased with his daughter's chemotherapy treatments, he began to receive text messages from management harassing him to explain why he needed time off, despite knowing of his daughter's condition, and insinuating that he was using his daughter's illness to secure a paid vacation."

Mr McCarthy was reportedly dismissed in December after he tried to discipline a white nurse who had forgotten to wear her face mask at work.

A black housekeeper was said to have been suspended for the same offence a year previously.

But Mr McCarthy said he was challenged over the matter and clocked out of his shift early.

He then alleged he received a voicemail informing him he had been suspended and then was fired two days later for "insubordination".

He has now got a new nursing job making home visits to patients.

Mr McCarthy told the New York Daily News: "I became a liability, instead of an asset."

In May 2015, Mr McCarthy was honoured for saving a 78-year-old woman's life three times within a few months.

And in June last year he was awarded the registered nurse of the year by the New York State Health Facility Association after being recommended by his former bosses.

Mirror Online has approached Daleview Care Center for comment.

The lawsuit is reportedly claiming unspecified damages.

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