



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
Southern Arizona VA Health Care System  
Tucson, AZ 85723

RECEIVED JUL 15 2013

**JUL 12 2013**

In Reply Refer To: 678/0-002A

The Honorable John McCain  
United States Senator  
407 West Congress Street, Suite 103  
Tucson, AZ 85701  
Attn: Suzanne Hernandez

Dear Senator McCain:

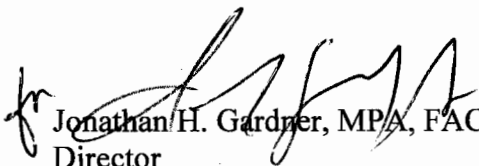
This is in response to your letter dated June 19, 2013, regarding your constituent, Mr. Anthony OConnell and his concerns at the Green Valley Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) of the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS). I requested that Mr. John Altevers, Administrative Officer, Community Clinics Care Line, address his concerns.

Mr. OConnell expressed several concerns in his letter to you but specifically asked questions about his prescription renewals, his treatment, and obtaining his living will. Mr. OConnell's current medications were not stopped and were refilled promptly at his request since October 2012. Many medications are renewed annually. In order for Mr. OConnell to obtain further medication refills, he can schedule an appointment with his provider at the Green Valley CBOC by calling (520) 399-2291. If Mr. OConnell needs refills prior to October 2013; he should contact the pharmacy refill line, at (520) 470-8262 and select option four. Mr. OConnell also contacted his provider several times asking that his living will be returned to him. He was advised each time to contact the Release of Information (ROI) office located at the main VA hospital to obtain his living will, as it is not available at the clinic. Mr. OConnell can reach the ROI office at (520) 792-1450, extension 6923.

These are standard VA procedures and all Veterans are provided the same guidance to receive medication refills and to obtain copies of their computerized medical information.

The SAVAHCS strives to provide quality and compassionate care to all of our Veterans. We are very concerned with patient care and the satisfaction of the Veterans we serve. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. John Altevers at (520) 792-1450, extension 4042.

Sincerely,

  
Jonathan H. Gardner, MPA, FACHE  
Director  
Southern Arizona  
VA Health Care System



Anthony O'Connell &lt;anthonymineroconnell@gmail.com&gt;

**Anthony O'Connell**

1 message

**Kate Simmons** <ksimmons92270@yahoo.com>

Fri, Dec 6, 2013 at 2:08 PM

Reply-To: Kate Simmons &lt;ksimmons92270@yahoo.com&gt;

To: "jonathan.gardner@med.va.gov" <jonathan.gardner@med.va.gov>, "marjorie.ford@med.va.gov" <marjorie.ford@med.va.gov>, "kernk@email.arizona.edu" <kernk@email.arizona.edu>, "joseph.rindone@va.gov" <joseph.rindone@va.gov>, "john.nanson@med.va.gov" <john.nanson@med.va.gov>, "timothy.mueller@med.va.gov" <timothy.mueller@med.va.gov>, "patty.valera@mail.house.gov" <patty.valera@mail.house.gov>

Cc: Anthony O'Connell <anthonymineroconnell@gmail.com>

Dear recipients:

On November 14, 2013, I received a phone call from someone in the VA that said Cardiology had sent two letters to Anthony O'Connell. Would you please send to me and Mr. Anthony O'Connell copies of these two letters?

I am Anthony O'Connell's Health Care Agent in his Power of Attorney for Health Care and Living Will dated January 1, 2009. He tells me that he has rescinded this document. He has repeatedly asked that this document be removed from the VA records, and has done all the procedures he has been instructed to do to make this happen, such as going to the Release of Information, and trying to make an appointment with the social worker. Please release this document from the VA records now and send verification to me and Anthony O'Connell that it has been done.

Please adhere to my September 18, 2013, letter to the Director that said, in part: "If you contact me again concerning Anthony O'Connell please do it by letter with a copy to Anthony O'Connell, and not by telephone."

Thank you,

Kate Simmons  
411 Myra Way  
San Francisco, CA 94127

**Kate Simmons never received  
anything in writing.**