

Woman dies after U.S. refuses parental visit

By Harvey Rice | January 7, 2013 | Updated: January 7, 2013 12:01pm

Comments 134 | E-mail | Print

Recommend 178

Tweet 26

2



Photo By Melissa Phillip/Staff

Luis Aguillon and his daughter Melissa Aguillon, 4, sit at Maria Sanchez's bedside last month. Photo: Melissa Phillip, Staff / © 2012 Houston Chronicle

GALVESTON - A Mexican immigrant died in Houston Sunday, four days after U.S. officials refused to allow the parents she had not seen in nine years to cross the border and visit her on her death bed.

Maria Sanchez, 26, died at 4:30 p.m. Sunday in her home from the effects of an inoperable spinal tumor, said her husband, **Luis Aguillon**.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection had denied a humanitarian parole that would have allowed Sanchez's parents to cross the border from Mexico and see her. The agency said humanitarian parole was an extraordinary measure granted only for a "very compelling emergency."

Almost two years ago, the **University of Texas Medical Branch** ejected her from the hospital shortly before a scheduled surgery after discovering she was in the country illegally. Written on her discharge paper was the suggestion that she seek surgery in Mexico. The hospital at the time said federal privacy laws precluded comment on a specific case.

Aguillon, a legal U.S. resident, moved his wife and their

5-year-old daughter, Melissa, to Houston so that Sanchez could receive treatment at **Ben Taub Hospital**.

Sanchez's illness forced Aguillon to stay home and attend to her needs as she grew more helpless. Aguillon was able to work sporadically until his wife's condition required his near constant attendance.

Aguillon said he would send his wife to Mexico for burial.

More Information

HoustonChronicle.com: [US turns down woman's dying request to see parents](#)

News: [St. John's School picks up 13 acres on Buffalo Speedway](#)

News: [Houston Rodeo lineup revealed early on Android app](#)

Video: [Stripper falls from balcony during lap dance](#)

News: [Stakes are higher for Texans this time, but will it matter?](#)