

My dad, Ed Chapman, died from asbestos cancer caused by asbestos in drywall products that he worked with in the 1970s. He and a small group of other workers – about 10 men in total – worked on many projects together, using the same products and tools. At least three of those men died from mesothelioma, a cancer so rare that generally only one in 100,000 people get it. These men have been wiped out by asbestos.

The asbestos products that killed my dad were manufactured and sold by Georgia Pacific and other companies. Georgia Pacific knew that its products were incredibly dangerous but continued to sell them. In 1971, Georgia Pacific's secret, internal documents acknowledged workers would get sick from asbestos and that they would sue Georgia Pacific. Georgia Pacific didn't care. In the same document Georgia Pacific callously announced its plan – to blame the contractors – like my dad – for their own disease.

My dad taught me that we are all accountable for our own actions. When dad got sick, he hired lawyers to hold the companies that poisoned him accountable for sickening him and killing his friends. Dad was able to sue some companies, like Union Carbide, in the Florida courts. Other companies, like United States Gypsum, were actually bankrupted by their asbestos liabilities years ago and dad made claims against the trusts that were set up to pay victims from the limited money left.

Georgia Pacific is not bankrupt but it got a free pass because it filed a Texas Two-Step bankruptcy to force victims to compromise their right to a jury trial and accept a reduced settlement in the bankruptcy court. My dad chose to fight. He refused to go along with blackmail – and died without being able to see justice served.

Georgia Pacific filed its fake bankruptcy before my dad got sick. The stay that was put into place protecting Georgia Pacific has remained in place for over 5 years. Meanwhile, it has been business as usual for Georgia Pacific, which has paid over Five Billion Dollars (\$5,000,000,000) in profit to Koch Industries while its victims get nothing.

When my dad's case went to trial in March 2020, all the defendants that had not settled were in the courtroom. My dad was too sick to be able to be in the courtroom and had to stay isolated in the hotel while his lawyers and I were in court. This was right before COVID shut down the courts and, in addition to having very little energy, dad could not risk being in a crowded courtroom.

All of the other companies negotiated settlements. This was the best he could hope for – there is no magic wand that could have cured his cancer.

But not Georgia Pacific. My dad died an excruciating, horrible, prolonged death from his asbestos cancer on November 16, 2020. Because of Georgia Pacific's bankruptcy filing, he never got a chance to seek justice from Georgia Pacific. To make matters worse the delay will likely mean Georgia Pacific and Koch Industries escape any accountability for what they did to my father – a windfall for Charles Koch, who is already the 20th richest person in the world.

Under Florida law, if an individual is harmed but dies from their injuries before trial, their claim for pain and suffering dies with them. Even if Georgia Pacific's fake bankruptcy is thrown out, Georgia Pacific will argue that my dad's estate has no claim. And make no mistake, my dad was brutalized by agonizing pain, suffering and humiliation from his asbestos cancer. My husband and I cared for my father during the end of his life and I can personally attest to the horrific ordeal dad experienced.

It is wrong that Georgia Pacific continues to try and dodge accountability. When Koch Industries bought Georgia Pacific, it knew Georgia Pacific's asbestos products had sickened and killed thousands of Americans. That didn't stop Koch Industries, because Georgia Pacific is a massively profitable company.

Bankruptcy is for people and companies that can't pay their bills. These Texas Two Step fake bankruptcies have turned the bankruptcy courts into a sham where profitable companies go to avoid responsibilities they are fully capable of paying. America was founded on the principle that all men are created equal. But the reality of Two-Step Bankruptcies is that they allow huge profitable companies to delay or avoid entirely taking responsibility for their actions.

My dad was my hero. And he was a devoted husband. While my dad was struggling with his asbestos cancer, my step-mother, Ruth, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. This was devastating to my dad, not only because the love of his life was dying, but also because his cancer prevented him from being able to fully care for Ruth. Dad never quit trying to help Ruth and he never quit fighting for his own life as the asbestos cancer slowly and painfully consumed him. Seeing them through to the end – was important to my dad.

The fact that that Georgia Pacific, with all its profits, was effectively immune from responsibility frustrated and confused my father. How could a company that was massively profitable – whose products you see in nearly every bathroom in every office building, restaurant, and school - file for bankruptcy? And how could his rights be put on indefinite hold due while Georgia Pacific sent billions of dollars of profits to Koch Industries?

It pains me to know that this abuse of the bankruptcy system has now been copied by other massively profitable companies, like Johnson & Johnson. This is wrong. Asbestos products have devastated American workers and their families. When profitable companies file for "bankruptcy" for the express purpose of avoiding juries by stranding sick Americans' in the bankruptcy system while the companies continue business as usual that's abuse. And it needs to stop.

My dad was a fighter. He saw things through to the end. Ed Chapman was not my biological father. He and my mother married when I was an infant. But he is the only dad I've ever known and I couldn't have asked for better. Right before he died, my dad drove himself to the courthouse and legally adopted me. While that never mattered to me – Ed was my dad no matter what - to him, it was the last thing he needed to do to finish the job of being my father. And he made sure

he finished the job. Dad taught me to speak up against injustice and abuse and to hold myself, and others, accountable for their actions. And dad taught me to see things through to the end. I am here to honor him by continuing his fight, by seeing it through to the end and making sure that Georgia Pacific doesn't get away with this abuse. I ask that you do the same. Thank you.