

Man pushed ailing mother to her death

Greg Wilford

A teacher pushed his infirm mother to her death from a balcony at her care home because he did not want to see her suffer, a court was told.

Robert Knight is accused of murdering his mother June, 79, by pushing her head first from the first floor at Langley Lodge in Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex. She died from brain injuries at the scene.

Mr Knight, 52, was filmed lifting her on to a railing and pushing her off. He admits killing her but denies murder due to his state of mind.

Basildon crown court was told that Mr Knight, of Leigh-on-Sea, decided to kill her during her palliative care after she had struggled with Alzheimer's disease. He was said to have told detectives that he was distressed because she had caught a virus and he "could not bear to see her suffer".

Andrew Jackson, for the prosecution, said: "He told police he wanted her to hit the ground with a big crack so she would be knocked unconscious." The trial continues.