

A Change in Policy at St. Mungo's

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The fathers' waiting room at St. Mungo's was a cheery place, decorated in soothing colours and upbeat sayings on the walls. Portraits of famous witches and wizards gave calming advice to the expectant fathers.

This particular day, however, there were two occupants of the room who would much rather have been with their wives rather than delegated to the waiting room.

"We must educate these Healers that proper wizards be with wives during labour and delivery. Is that not so, Harry Potter? I know you want to be with Ginevra. Viktor was clearly upset that he was not allowed to be with Hermione during the birth.

"You're right, Vik. I think this is the perfect time for me to use the wizard-who-saved-the-world trump card. We'll both get to see our wives and actually be there at the birth. Come on." Harry opened the door and marched to the Healer's station on the maternity floor.

The young Healer assistant at the desk looked up as they approached. "May I help you?"

"My name is Harry Potter and this is Viktor Krum. Do you know who we are?" At her nod, he continued, "Our wives are in labour now, and we want to be with them. Who do I need to consult about making that happen?"

The young witch turned and pulled a bellpull. Within moments a stocky older Healer appeared.

"What can I do for you gentlemen?"

Harry looked at the Healer and decided that intimidation was the best tactic to use.

"Healer, do I need to contact Minister Shacklebolt about the outdated rules here? My name is Harry Potter. You do know that I defeated Voldemort some years ago? This is Viktor Krum, the Quidditch champion. Our wives are in this facility, and we have been told that we can't be with them while they are in labour and delivery. I want to know why not?"

"I want to know why, also. Is not way things are done in Bulgaria. Husbands can be in labour room and delivery room. Why is England so backwards?" Viktor's voice was getting louder and louder.

The Healer looked at the two irate young wizards and made a rapid decision.

"Healer-assistant Jocelyn, as of today, any expectant father who wishes to be in labour and delivery with his wife may do so. Please have that change posted into the day's notes. This way, gentlemen. Labour and delivery is down this hallway."

Harry and Viktor both turned to the puzzled young witch and winked at her before following the Healer down the hallway.

Muse's prompt was: Harry and Viktor find themselves comparing notes outside the St. Mungo's maternity ward as they prepare to become fathers for the first time.