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Woman files suit against Palos Heights nursing home

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By Emily Udell, special to The Star

The daughter of an 85-year-old woman who died at a Palos Heights nursing home has filed a lawsuit charging the facility with neglect and abuse that contributed to her mother's death.

The complaint accuses Manor Care at Palos Heights of failing to provide Nancy Cirantineo with timely medical care for various injuries, including infected pressure sores, fecal impaction and sepsis. She also suffered from malnutrition and dehydration while residing at the facility, according to the lawsuit.

"This is just another example of where a family trusts a facility to care for

their loved one, and their trust is betrayed," said Steven Levin, an attorney for Cirantineo's daughter Roberta.

The lawsuit was filed last week in Cook County Circuit Court, he said.

Cirantineo was a resident of Manor Care at Palos Heights from October through November 2005. She died in September 2006.

"The injuries that she suffered while in the nursing home were of such magnitude that they contributed to her death," Levin said. "They are not the actual cause, they caused a debilitating state that shortened someone's life."

Manor Care at Palos Heights is operated by the

Toledo, Ohio-based Manor Care Inc. A message seeking comment was not returned. No one answered a published number for Manor Care at Palos Heights.

The complaint asks for more than \$50,000, including attorney's fees. An investigation into a complaint about Cirantineo's care was conducted by the Illinois Department of Public Health in June 2006.

Kimberly Parker, an agency spokeswoman, did not immediately know if a citation or fine was issued as a result of that investigation.

Manor Care Inc. operates numerous facilities in the Chicago metropolitan area, including nursing homes in Oak Lawn and Homewood.