

Family sues East Peoria nursing home

AP Associated Press

April 27, 2007 (EAST PEORIA, Ill.) - The family of an 81-year-old woman who died in an East Peoria nursing home is suing the complex.

Betty Saal died in April, one day after a police raid at the East Peoria Gardens nursing home turned up about a dozen workers and residents wanted on outstanding criminal warrants.

An autopsy showed Saal died of brain trauma, possibly caused by a fall.

Her niece, Terri Smith, alleges that Saal was under the nursing home's care when she fell and injured herself.

Authorities are investigating Saal's death.

The lawsuit filed yesterday alleges that East Peoria Gardens created an environment in which "elderly residents feared for their safety." But the nursing home's administrators have defended the facility, saying it operates within health department guidelines.

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