

East Moline nursing home sued for negligence

By Ann McGlynn | Thursday, November 13, 2008

An East Moline nursing home is facing a lawsuit from a widow who is accusing the facility of negligence that led to her husband's death.

The family of Charles Mead filed the complaint against Parkview Terrace, 430 30th Ave., a news release from the law firm of Levin & Perconti said. Mead died of renal failure and sepsis caused by dehydration in May 2007 at age 79. The suit was filed in Cook County courts.

"When we went to the hospital, the emergency room doctor told me that his was the worst case of dehydration he had ever seen," Mary Mead said in the news release. A spokeswoman from the law firm declined an interview with her.

A spokesman for the nursing home could not be reached for comment. Suzanne Koenig and Melvin Siegel are listed by the state as the owners.

Charles Mead moved to Parkview Terrace on May 14, 2007, after a medical procedure at [Trinity Medical Center](#), officials said. Workers at the nursing home determined he was at risk for dehydration. Staff members were supposed to help him with his meals and watch his intake of food and fluid.

On the morning of May 21, a staff member noted Mead was lethargic and that his medications ran out of his mouth. "No responding when asked if he is in pain. Will continue to monitor," a report from the Illinois Department of Public Health says.

When Mary Mead arrived to visit him that morning, she found him "lethargic, unresponsive and unable to hold his head up," the law firm's news release says. A staff member called an ambulance, which took Charles Mead to the emergency room.

He died 36 hours later.

The Illinois Department of Public Health found the staff failed to record the amount of fluids and food Mead consumed daily, as required by his care plan. Interviews with two physicians indicated the dehydration probably took place over several days.

It's the second lawsuit filed by this law firm against a Rock Island County nursing home.

Olive Fletcher died in October 2007 at the age of 89. She went to live at Forest Hill Health and Rehab Center in January 2006.

During her time there, attorney Steve Levin said, Fletcher fell three times. Her last fall sent her to the hospital, where doctors said she was severely dehydrated. Fletcher had also lost a significant amount of weight because of malnourishment, Levin said. She died of kidney failure as a result of the dehydration 11 days after the fall.

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