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Illinois Department of Public Health cites Alden Long Grove Rehabilitation & Health Center for neglect of 82-year-old man—family files lawsuit on his behalf

CHICAGO, IL – Steven M. Levin of the Chicago-based law firm Levin & Perconti filed a lawsuit today, August 28, 2007, in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois on behalf of Arkady Aronov (Island Lake), the son of 82-year-old Michail Aronov who died on November 17, 2006 due to abuse and neglect suffered while a resident at Alden Long Grove Rehabilitation & Health Care Center. Alden Long Grove Rehabilitation & Health Center, Alden Management Services, Inc., and The Alden Group, Ltd., have been named as Defendants.

Prior to his admission to Alden Long Grove, Michail Aronov was described by his granddaughter, Mila Aronov, as an active man who enjoyed an independent lifestyle. He was able to walk unassisted and took pleasure in playing cards with his friends.

Mila described what led to her grandfather's admission to Alden, "My grandfather had been hospitalized after an accidental fall. His injuries left him weak. When it was time for him to be released from the hospital, the doctors recommended that he be admitted to a nursing home for rehabilitation and so that he could regain his strength. The doctors felt that my grandfather needed around the clock supervision to prevent him from falling again."

The close-knit Aronov family searched for a nursing facility that would provide the highest standard of care for Michail. Alden Long Grove Rehabilitation & Health promised that their facility could meet Michail's need for supervision and care while providing social opportunities and proper nutrition. When the Aronov family expressed their concern that

Michail maintain his healthy appetite, Alden boasted a menu selection that would restore Michail's physical strength.

Family members took turns visiting Michail almost daily after work. They spent most of their time coaxing Michail to eat his evening meal. Many times family members would arrive at meal time only to find Michail sitting in front of a meal tray unsupervised and without his dentures. Alden staff frequently ignored concerns expressed by the family that Michail was not eating or drinking a sufficient amount and that he was losing weight. The care that Michail was receiving was far below what Alden Long Grove had promised.

Shortly before Michail's death, Alden Long Grove was cited by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) for neglect and improper nursing care. Specifically, Alden was cited for failing to conduct a comprehensive assessment and implement an intervention for Michail, who had lost 15% of his total body weight in only three months. The facility was also cited for failing to monitor Michail's nutritional status even after he had been hospitalized for weight loss and corresponding abnormal laboratory values.

Dr. Agata Oczko-Danguilan, the Medical Director at Alden Long Grove and Michail's treating physician, and Marie Rosete, the facility's Administrator at the time of the alleged neglect, have been named as Respondents in Discovery because they may have information helpful to the case.

Steven Levin commented about the circumstances surrounding Michail's neglect and eventual death, "Michail Aronov was a resident of Alden Long Grove Rehabilitation & Health Care Center for 8 months. During this short time, he lost 23 pounds due to Alden's failure to establish and follow an appropriate nutritional plan of care. He was admitted to the hospital for four days with a diagnosis of medication poisoning, dehydration, malnutrition, kidney damage,

metabolic imbalance, significant weight loss and adverse changes in his mental status. Only nine days after his return to Alden and despite doctor's orders that he receive assistance with feeding and that his urination and bowel movements be monitored, he was readmitted to the hospital with kidney failure due to urinary obstruction, dehydration and malnutrition. The family moved him to another facility where he ultimately died due to complications of sepsis, urinary obstruction, and a urinary tract infection."

Mila Aronov said, "When we admitted my grandfather to Alden, we were assured that he would receive the highest level of care and compassion. We were promised that he would be treated with respect and dignity. My grandfather deserved to be treated with the same compassion that he showed to others throughout his life. My family would like to prevent this type of tragedy from happening again."