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In the News

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In Circuit Court

A Cook County jury has told a Homewood nursing home and rehabilitation facility to pay more than \$2.9 million to the family of a woman who died during her stay at the center, attorneys said.

It is the largest death-related verdict a jury has levied against a nursing home in the county, surpassing a decision that exceeded \$1.4 million last year, according to John Kirkton, editor of the Cook County Jury Verdict Reporter.

Ana Carrasco, 57, died at ManorCare Health SVS Homewood in 2001 after her tracheotomy tube was slowly obstructed with mucous, according to the plaintiffs, who maintained that the blockage stopped her breathing and caused brain damage.

Sheila Albores, Carrasco's daughter, sued the facility. The verdict was read Friday before Circuit Judge [Ralph Reyna](#).

The case is *Sheila Albores, etc. v. Health Care and Retirement Corp. of America, etc.*, No. 02-L7024.

Just before the trial, the defendant offered \$2 million and Albores demanded \$3.5 million. The defendant is self insured for the first \$1 million and had excess coverage with Lloyd's of London for the remaining amount.

Levin & Perconti attorneys [Steven M. Levin](#) and [Michael F. Bonamarte IV](#) represented the plaintiff.

Albores will now request attorney fees, Levin said.

Levin said Albores was "doing battle" every day with facility staff members, saying they weren't attending to her mother's breathing problems in the five days she was there.

"But despite her vigorous advocacy, they sorely neglected her mom," Levin said. "If this can happen when a daughter is a vigorous advocate on mom's care, it's scary to

think what happens when there's no advocate at all."

[D. Timothy McVey](#) and [Ami L. DeMarco](#), of McVey & Parsky LLC, represented the defendants. DeMarco said the verdict was fair.