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Daughter Files Wrongful Death Lawsuit Against Sacred Heart Nursing Home in Chicago
Nursing home failed to prevent fall that lead to her mother's death

CHICAGO, June 11, 2009 – Yesterday, Chicago personal injury attorneys Michael F. Bonamarte and John J. Perconti of Levin & Perconti filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Sacred Heart Home in Chicago. The complaint was filed in the Circuit Court of Cook County on behalf of Jennifer Bowden of Harvard, IL for the severe injuries her mother, Kathleen Koch, sustained while under Sacred Heart's care. These injuries lead to her death eight months after her accident at the nursing home.

Kathleen was a resident at Sacred Heart Home from December 14, 2007 through December 21, 2007. Prior to her admission to Sacred Heart, Kathleen was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. On December 21, Kathleen left her second floor room and exited the hallway through an unalarmed stairwell door at the nursing home. Kathleen was found in the first floor stairwell having suffered serious injuries including a broken back, significant head injuries and paralysis. Following lengthy hospitalizations, Kathleen died from her injuries approximately eight months later at the age of 61.

The complaint alleges that the nursing staff failed to properly monitor and supervise Kathleen. It also alleges that nursing home staff failed to develop and implement a proper care plan based on Kathleen's medical conditions.

"I made the decision to file a lawsuit against Sacred Heart because I did not want another family to go through what I did with my mother. I do not want this to happen to another nursing home resident," said Jennifer.

"Kathleen's medical conditions precipitated the need for close monitoring and supervision," said attorney Michael Bonamarte. "Her family trusted the nursing home to provide the care and treatment she required. If this facility, whose entire resident population is comprised of individuals with mental illnesses, was unable to provide Kathleen with the monitoring and supervision she required then they should not have accepted her as a resident. We believe that if the proper precautions were put into place, her accident and subsequent death could have been avoided."

After her mother's death, Jennifer filed a complaint with the Illinois Department of Public Health who investigated Kathleen's case. The IDPH cited the nursing home for Type A violations for failing to appropriately monitor and supervise Kathleen. IDPH fined the nursing home \$20,000.00 and issued a conditional license to the facility. The facility had been cited prior to Kathleen's incident for failing to properly supervise and monitor residents including another incident in February 2007 where a resident fell from a first story roof and later died from his injuries.

Levin & Perconti is a nationally renowned law firm concentrating in all types of personal injury, medical malpractice, and wrongful death litigation. The lawyers at Levin & Perconti are committed to protecting and vindicating the rights of people who are injured by the negligence of others. Please contact the firm at (312) 332-2872 or visit www.levinperconti.com for more information.

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