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Illinois Department of Public Health Cites Halsted Terrace---Wrongful death suit filed against by Chicago law firm, Levin & Perconti

Chicago—January 18, 2008—Steven M. Levin and Jordan S. Powell of the Chicago law firm, Levin & Perconti, filed a lawsuit in the Circuit Court of Cook County on behalf of Special Administrator, Tyrone Crawford (Hinesville, Georgia) and his brothers, Mark (Matteson, IL), Michael (U.S. Air Force) and Randy (Harvey, IL), the sons of 66-year-old Stephen Crawford against Halsted Terrace Nursing Center (Chicago). **The facility has also been cited by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) for neglect and improper nursing care.**

Stephen Crawford was admitted to Halsted Terrace on July 14, 2006 suffering from a neurological disorder called transverse myelitis which caused paralysis in both legs. Stephen's sons had been very active in his care and treatment and chose Halsted Terrace based on their assurances that he would receive the highest quality of skilled nursing care to meet his total needs. Upon admission to the facility, Stephen was assessed as requiring assistance with all activities of daily living, including dispensing his medications and making sure that he received sufficient nourishment. Stephen also required wound treatment for existing pressure sores and preventative treatment to avoid the development of new ones.

The complaint alleges that during his residency, Stephen became malnourished and dehydrated and developed multiple bed sores on his lower extremities and his sacral/coccyx area. His malnutrition delayed his body's ability to heal and increased his

risk for developing new pressure ulcers.

Attorney Steven Levin stated: "Stephen developed multiple extensive Stage 3 and 4 pressure sores all over his body, including on his sacrum and right hip because he did not receive adequate nutrition. Halsted Terrace staff also failed to apply the wound care medications ordered by his doctor, check his skin each day and turn and reposition Stephen. All these factors caused his wounds to worsen. Stephen's pressure sores were allowed to become so deep and infected that he was forced to undergo the indignity of having a temporary colostomy to protect the infected areas from contact with contaminants."

Mr. Levin added: "Halsted Terrace was cited by the Illinois Department of Public Health for numerous violations, including failure to provide adequate care for a central line and an indwelling catheter, failure to monitor Stephen's input and outputs, and failure to assess Stephen for the presence of infection. As a result of Halsted's neglect, he had to be hospitalized for a urinary tract infection and receive IV antibiotics."

Mr. Levin continued: "Even when Stephen was discharged from the hospital and readmitted to Halsted Terrace, the staff failed to flush the IV with water on a regular basis to keep it clear. When the course of antibiotics that had been ordered by his doctor was finished, the staff failed to remove the line."

Jordan Powell said, "Sadly, Stephen's four sons' placed their trust in Halsted Terrace to provide proper and dignified care for their father. Instead, Halsted's actions caused unnecessary pain in the final days of his life."

Steve Levin concluded, "The decline in Stephen's overall health eventually contributed to his death on May 25, 2007. This avoidable tragedy happened because

Halsted Terrace was not sufficiently staffed and their staff was not properly trained to care for patients, like Stephen Crawford, who had serious health issues. Unfortunately, the nursing home admissions department provided assurances to the family that they would meet Stephen's care needs."