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Family Files Nursing Home Negligence Lawsuit Against Lincolnwood Place
Resident fell 14 times under nursing home's care

CHICAGO, December 17, 2008 – Steven M. Levin and Margaret P. Battersby of Levin & Perconti filed a nursing home negligence lawsuit in the Circuit Court of Cook County yesterday on behalf of Helen Dombrow of Highland Park. The lawsuit was brought against Lincolnwood Place for the injuries Helen's mother, Rose Sterny, 89, sustained while a resident at the nursing home. Rose fell approximately 14 times during her residency at Lincolnwood, with two of these falls resulting in hip fractures. Since her last fall in July, 2008, her overall physical condition has deteriorated significantly. The lawsuit alleges that Lincolnwood Place failed to take the necessary precautions to prevent Rose from falling, despite her known risk for falls.

Rose was admitted to Lincolnwood Place in January 2005. Prior to her residency at Lincolnwood, Rose lived in Kenosha, WI. "We chose Lincolnwood Place after extensive research because we believed it was a positive, caring, and safe environment," said Helen. In February 2006, Rose fell and broke her hip, requiring surgery. From February 2006 through July 2008, Rose fell 14 more times. During this period, Rose's doctors ordered the use of a Lap Buddy, a device that prevents people from falling forward in wheelchairs. "We were hesitant and afraid to move her somewhere new because of her dementia. She had become comfortable at Lincolnwood, because she knew the environment and there were familiar faces and voices," said Helen.

On July 9, 2008, Rose fell and fractured her hip again, requiring a second surgery. The nurse who helped Rose get ready that morning admitted that she was aware of Rose's need for a Lap Buddy but forgot to use it on that day.

Since her surgery in July 2008, Rose has suffered a significant decrease in her overall condition and functionality. "She hasn't been the same since her second hip fracture. She sleeps all the time, is quiet

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and disoriented, and cannot do anything independently anymore. She requires the help of two people every time she uses the restroom, dresses or needs to be transferred,” said Helen.

“The nursing home failed to protect Rose from falling from her wheelchair on a number of occasions and eventually she was seriously injured. The home was aware of her risk for falls yet failed carry out doctors’ orders to use devices that would prevent her from falling. Now, as a result of this negligence, her condition has greatly worsened,” said Steve Levin, the family’s attorney.

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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Editor’s note: If you would like to receive a copy of the complaint or wish to speak with Mr. Levin regarding the case, please call Jenna at 312-332-2872 or email jenna@levinperconti.com.