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Levin & Perconti Files Medical Malpractice Lawsuit against Adventist Hinsdale Hospital

CHICAGO, February 5, 2009 – On Friday, Steven M. Levin of the Chicago-based law firm Levin & Perconti filed a medical malpractice lawsuit in the Circuit Court of Cook County against Adventist Hinsdale Hospital in Hinsdale, IL on behalf of the daughter of a patient who attempted suicide soon after being improperly discharged from the hospital. The victim*, then 68-years old, jumped from the balcony of her third-story apartment and suffered serious injuries including a shattered pelvis, multiple fractures and internal bleeding. The victim became severely physically disabled and immobile as a result of the incident, which occurred on September 25, 2007.

On August 26, 2007, the victim was admitted to Hinsdale Hospital after she was found trying to jump from her third story balcony. She had a history of mental illness and depression and the hospital kept her for seven days to monitor her condition. At the hospital, her doctors recommended that they move her to The Elgin Mental Health Center to receive constant supervision and care. The victim's daughter supported this idea because her mother had been a patient at Elgin in the past. The hospital called to make these arrangements but Elgin refused to admit her, stating that they could not provide the appropriate nursing care that she needed because of her age. The staff at Elgin felt that a nursing home would be a more appropriate choice, but the victim could not go to a nursing home because she had no insurance and did not qualify for public aid. After Elgin denied her, the victim's only option was to remain in the hospital for psychiatric supervision, but instead the hospital discharged her to return home.

Two weeks later, on September 15, 2007, the victim called herself an ambulance and was readmitted to Hinsdale Hospital with complaints of abdominal pain. During this time, she continued to display symptoms of depression and psychosis, but these symptoms were never fully addressed by hospital staff. Her doctors discharged her after three days and when her daughter came to pick her up, she found her mother lying on the hallway floor and screaming. The victim's daughter was shocked to find her mother in this condition and immediately pleaded for help from the nurses on the floor. The nurses told the victim's daughter that they could no longer help her mother and so she took her mother home as ordered by her doctors at discharge.

One week later, on September 25, the victim attempted suicide by jumping from her third floor balcony. She suffered multiple fractures and severe internal bleeding from her fall. "After the

initial resuscitation at Hinsdale, she was transferred to Loyola Medical Center in Maywood, where she spent several weeks in the Intensive Care Unit and then several months in traction and recovery,” recalled the victim’s daughter. “My mother is now unable to walk, is bed-ridden, has lost her vision and relies on a feeding tube. She continues to suffer from a chronic pain in her legs and pelvis as a result of her severe fractures.”

“Hinsdale Hospital had several chances to prevent our client’s suicide attempt. They failed to diagnose and effectively treat her depression and psychosis and they improperly discharged her despite knowing that she was a danger to herself,” said attorney Steve Levin. “Her injuries could have been avoided if the hospital delivered the proper care necessary to treat someone in her condition.”

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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**Due to the sensitive nature of this case, the victim’s family requested that specific names and locations be omitted. If you are interested in learning more about this lawsuit, please contact Jenna Bosco to set up a time to speak with Steve Levin.*