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**75-year-old woman dies from abuse and neglect suffered at ManorCare at Oak Lawn**

Chicago, IL – Susan L. Novosad of the Chicago-based law firm Levin & Perconti recently filed a lawsuit in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois on behalf of Marion Johnson (Chicago), the daughter of Helen Edwards, a resident who suffered needlessly as a result of the neglect and abuse she experienced at ManorCare at Oak Lawn (Kostner). Helen died on January 9, 2006 from complications of her injuries. ManorCare at Oak Lawn is currently being investigated by the **Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)**.

Helen was a resident of ManorCare from October 3, 2005 through November 26, 2005. She was admitted to the facility for rehabilitation following a left hip fracture and with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's dementia. Because of these conditions, Helen was totally dependent on ManorCare to provide for all of her needs. When Helen was admitted to Manor Care, she had no pressure sores. Sadly, in only 4 weeks of residency, she developed an infected Stage IV pressure sore and two others on her right and left ankles.

The complaint alleges that ManorCare at Oak Lawn failed to prevent Helen Edwards' mistreatment, neglect and abuse by their staff members. Specific examples of staff mistreatment and neglect included failure to provide necessary care and services, failure to accurately assess Helen's risk for the development of pressure sores, failure to provide necessary treatment to prevent the development and progression of pressure sores, failure to manage post-operative

pain and delayed medical treatment.

Attorney Susan Novosad stated, “ManorCare failed to properly care for Helen Edwards by not accurately assessing her risk for the development of pressure sores and by failing to provide the necessary treatment and services to promote healing, prevent infection and prevent new sores from developing. ManorCare at Oak Lawn also allowed Mrs. Edwards to suffer unrelieved pain associated with both her hip fracture and her wounds.”

The complaint also alleges that ManorCare failed to report changes in Helen’s clinical condition to the attending physician and her family including obvious signs of wound infection.

Novosad explained the incident that prompted Helen’s daughter to have her mother taken to the hospital, “When Marion arrived for her regular visit, Helen complained that she wasn’t feeling well. She also complained about pain in her hand and wrist. Marion suspected that her mother was running a temperature and worried that she may have fractured her hand. She demanded that her mom be taken to the hospital where she could be properly evaluated.”

Novosad added, “Although x-rays revealed that Helen’s hand was not fractured, she was diagnosed with pneumonia, dehydration, severe malnourishment and sepsis. During her brief residency at ManorCare her nutritional status had been allowed to decline so severely she had suffered a 13 pound weight loss.”

Helen Edwards never recovered from the injuries she sustained while under the care of ManorCare. She died of overwhelming sepsis 6 weeks after being transferred from ManorCare Oak Lawn.

Attorney Susan Novosad said, “Nursing facilities like ManorCare promise families that they can provide for the complex medical care of their loved ones. They promise to provide dignified care in a home-like setting. Helen depended on ManorCare to meet all of her needs

because she was unable to care for herself. Instead, she was allowed to suffer needlessly. ”