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Family sues nursing home

By CRYSTAL LINDELL - clindell@nwherald.com
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MCHENRY – A McHenry woman alleges that poor care at a Lake Zurich nursing home led to her mother’s shattered hip, and a lawsuit has been filed against the facility.

The lawsuit, filed in Cook County Circuit Court against the Lexington Health Care Center of Lake Zurich, is on behalf of Edna Kneidek, 83, according to a news release from her attorney, Steven Levin.

“We hope that our case will bring about changes at Lexington so that other residents don’t suffer like my mother did,” Kneidek’s daughter, Lisa Reiplinger of McHenry, said in the news release. “We do not want anyone else to go through what my mother went through.”

Reiplinger alleges that her mom fell five times during 2007 while undergoing care at the nursing home even though staff members knew she was at risk for falling.

One particular fall Aug. 7, 2007, prompted the lawsuit. At that time, Kneidek allegedly fell and then complained to staff members of severe hip pain. However, staff members allegedly did not transfer her to a hospital for X-rays until five days later, according to the news release.

Those X-rays reflected that Kneidek had shattered her left hip. The hospital staff members also diagnosed Kneidek with pneumonia at that time, according to the news release.

The lawsuit was filed in a court that handles claims in excess of \$50,000. However, Levin did not specify how much money the family seeks.

“We will eventually be asking for a substantial sum,” he said.

Representatives of the nursing home could not be reached for comment Monday.

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dogma wrote on **March 10, 2009 6:17 a.m.**
"Another money hungry family! Let's see you take care of Mommy yourself! Old people fall, break hips, get cuts. You can't tie them to the bed. Boy would that be a lawsuit waiting to happen!"
Report

meg wrote on **March 10, 2009 7:28 a.m.**
"What a brilliant piece of work that comment was dog.And your wisdom for the lack of immediate follow up (5 days!)on post fall hip pain?Nevermind....spare me, please! Obviously, there was negligence at this facility."
Report

mcmmomyof4 wrote on **March 10, 2009 7:39 a.m.**
"Sadly, this case is NOT unique. While there are many well staffed nursing/caring facilities of this type, there are even more full of overworked, tired, crabby staff/nurses some of which really just don't give a crap. Its a hard job, thats for sure! But the situation I've personally seen in many of these places is truly appalling-I'd certainly never put my loved one in 90% of them!"
Report

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