

March 2009

Dear Client,

Almost daily, you are faced with difficult decisions that can affect the safety and well-being of you and your loved ones—what doctor to see, what hospital to use, what car to drive, what products are safest. With each decision, you must weigh the short- and long-term benefits of each option to determine the best route to take.

One of the more difficult decisions in life is deciding to move a loved one into a long-term care facility. When you do, you expect and trust the facility will meet your loved one's needs. Unfortunately, all too often, nursing homes break this trust and residents are harmed. As attorneys who have handled thousands of medical malpractice cases, including nursing home lawsuits, we understand the systemic causes of nursing home negligence and like to share information that could protect you or your loved ones.

Choose a nursing home with insurance: Most people do not realize, but many states, including Illinois, do not require nursing homes to carry liability insurance. Therefore, when a resident is injured or dies from abuse or neglect, the home cannot cover this loss. This leaves families and individuals powerless because it takes away their ability to receive fair and reasonable compensation for the harm caused. Researching a nursing home's insurance coverage and choosing a home that is covered can protect your family and ensure compensation in the event of injury or death caused by negligence.

Our firm is currently lobbying the Illinois legislature to enact regulations requiring nursing homes to carry mandatory liability insurance. If you would be willing to share your individual story or get involved, please contact our offices.

Do not sign a mandatory arbitration agreement: Nursing home residents and their families often unknowingly sign arbitration agreements when completing nursing home contracts. When you sign one, you agree to use arbitration, instead of the courts, to decide your case. By signing, you limit your ability to seek justice for injuries and abuse. Victims of nursing home abuse and neglect fare better when given the opportunity to plead their case in front of a jury. If a nursing home contract has an arbitration agreement, we recommend that you do not sign it.

Recently, a bill was introduced in both the U.S. House and Senate that would eliminate and invalidate all current and future arbitration agreements in nursing home contracts. We encourage you to contact your congressmen and show your support of the bipartisan Fairness in Nursing Home Arbitration Act of 2009. By doing so, you will help to protect the rights of current and future nursing home residents.

The legal process is long and complex. Throughout this process, we constantly work to bring justice to you and hold all wrongdoers accountable. We are committed to achieving the best possible results for you in the shortest amount of time, while ensuring that justice is served and you are fairly compensated.

Please feel free to call or e-mail us anytime with questions.

Very truly yours,



