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## Management company, doctor reach settlement in Charleston nursing home death

By H&R staff | Posted: Friday, September 18, 2009 11:30 pm

CHICAGO - A company that once managed a Charleston nursing home and a doctor recently agreed to settle a lawsuit filed after a resident of the home died allegedly because of injuries he received there.

The \$700,000 settlement went to the estate of Donald McCormick Jr., who was 43 years old when he died Nov. 24, 2002. McCormick had been a resident of Prairie View Care Center when it was at 716 18th St., Charleston.

According to Levin & Perconti, the Chicago law firm that filed the lawsuit, McCormick was admitted to Prairie View on March 19, 2002. The firm said he suffered impairments and was dependent on nursing home staff for all activities of daily living.

McCormick's impairments also made him unable to communicate his needs to nursing home staff, the lawsuit alleged, and from his admission until his discharge on May 12, 2002, he became severely malnourished, dehydrated and developed a massive bed sore.

The lawsuit said the wound exposed a bone, and the injuries were caused by the nursing home and a doctor's failure to provide adequate medical and personal care, leading to his death.

A Skokie firm, Certified Health Care Management Inc., managed the nursing home at the time but no longer has the facility, and Dr. Carl Johnson also was named as a defendant in the lawsuit. Representatives of Certified Health Care Management and Johnson didn't return phone calls seeking comment on the settlement.

Case documents indicated that Certified Health Care Management agreed to pay \$600,000 to McCormick's estate, and Johnson agreed to pay \$100,000. The lawsuit was filed in Cook County because that's where the nursing home's management company is located.