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**Sullivan Rehabilitation and Health Care Center (Peoria) cited by the IDPH after
62-year-old man dies under their care.**

October 26, 2007--PEORIA, IL- Steven M. Levin of the Chicago law firm, Levin & Perconti recently filed a lawsuit against Sullivan Rehabilitation and Health Care Center (Peoria) on behalf of Brenda Pate (Decatur), the daughter of Thomas Lewis, a resident who died on May 8, 2007 as a result of a head trauma sustained while under their care.

Sixty-two-year-old Thomas Lewis was admitted to Sullivan Rehabilitation and Health Care Center (Sullivan) on April 24, 2007 for rehabilitation, speech and occupational therapy following a stroke. Mr. Lewis was assessed to be at risk for falls and required assistance with transferring from his bed in order to ensure his safety. His Plan of Care also called for supervision and assistance with activities of daily living.

Attorney Steven Levin said, "In less than two weeks from the time Thomas Lewis was admitted to Sullivan for therapy, he was left unsupervised in a geriatric chair that was known to be defective. Sadly, Thomas fell from that chair and landed face down. He suffered serious head and brain injuries and died."

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) cited Sullivan for type "A" violations of the Nursing Home Care Act. An "A" violation is the most serious licensure violation imposed by the state and pertains to a condition in which there is a substantial probability that death or serious mental or physical harm resulted from their actions.

Sullivan was also fined \$20,000 by the IDPH.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) specifically cited Sullivan Rehabilitation for failing to maintain a multi-position chair in a safe functioning condition for 1 of 4 sampled residents. They were also cited for failing to ensure that the reclining geriatric chair was correctly evaluated following staff concerns, and on an ongoing basis. The IDPH report stated that due to these failures Mr. Lewis sustained an avoidable fall resulting in an intracranial hemorrhage and a subdural hematoma resulting in his death.

Levin added, "This tragedy need not have occurred. A sixty-two year old man is dead because Sullivan failed to conduct regular maintenance on equipment used in the care of an already vulnerable population."