

For Immediate Release

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\$1 million settlement for Quadriplegic against North Shore Nursing Home

CHICAGO, IL – June 15, 2007 – An order was entered yesterday by Judge Maddux, the presiding judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, approving a \$1 million settlement on behalf Jerzy Wazydrag (Chicago), represented by Chicago law firm Levin & Perconti, against Alden North Shore Nursing Home (Skokie). Following a devastating work-related injury, Jerzy Wazydrag was rendered a quadriplegic. Jerzy, 51-years old at the time, was admitted to the Alden North Shore for rehabilitation therapy. During his residency at the facility from June 2001 through December 2001, Jerzy developed severe pressure ulcers (bed sores) on his tailbone, right and left hips, and right and left heels. It took one year for care providers at RML Specialty Hospital (Hinsdale) to heal the pressure sores and restore the integrity of Jerzy's skin. Alden North Shore claimed that the pressure ulcers were unavoidable due to Jerzy's immobility as a quadriplegic. Attorneys Steven Levin and Michael Bonamarte of Levin & Perconti were able to refute this claim by showing that Jerzy's pressure sores healed when he left Alden North Shore, and now that Jerzy is receiving proper care and treatment from his wife Bo and nurses that come to his home, Jerzy remains free of any bed sores.

Steve Levin explained the unique circumstances in this case, "Jerzy's dedicated wife, Bo, is the real hero in this story. She has proven without a doubt that patients with complex medical conditions like quadriplegia need not live with painful and life threatening bed sores. Nursing home residents have a right to expect the quality of care Mrs. Wazydrag provided for her husband."

Michael Bonamarte commented “This is a classic example of a nursing home facility that was understaffed and inadequately trained and supervised. When Jerzy was admitted to the facility the nursing home promised that they could meet his care needs. The nursing home broke their promise to Jerzy and his family and as a result, Jerzy suffered needlessly.”

Judge Casciato, a former Cook County judge and current mediator, assisted the parties in reaching this successful result.