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Claremont cited by the Illinois Department of Public Health for failure to supervise 79-year old-double amputee who fell and died of brain injury. Lawsuit filed by the family.

June 4, 2007--CHICAGO, IL—A lawsuit was filed against Claremont Rehab and Living Center (Buffalo Grove) by Steven M. Levin and Michael F. Bonamarte, IV of the Chicago law firm, Levin & Perconti on behalf of Susan Zelik (Buffalo Grove) for the death of her father, Eli Goldman.

The lawsuit followed Claremont's citing by The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) 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.

Claremont was fined \$20,000 for failure to supervise Eli Goldman, a resident documented to be at high risk for falls. This failure resulted in Goldman suffering a fall, then dying from brain injuries.

78-year-old Eli Goldman was a resident of Claremont Rehab & Living Center from September 14, 2004 through January 10, 2005. He was admitted to the long term care facility after a left leg amputation below the knee and was to be fitted for a prosthesis while in the nursing home. Goldman had a prior right below the knee amputation due to complications of diabetes. Eli

Goldman had an artificial right leg and a temporary artificial left leg. He suffered from weakness, a decrease in balance and an inability to ambulate without help. He was at high risk for falls and required constant supervision and assistance.

On January 10, 2005, following Eli's therapy session, the physical therapist responsible for Eli's therapy and supervision left him unattended on a therapy table. Eli fell off the table and was rushed to Northwest Community Hospital (Arlington Heights) where he died due to severe brain injuries caused by the fall.

Following the incident, Susan Zelik called the administrator of Claremont to find out what had happened to her father and to request a copy of the incident report. The administrator, Larry Putz, told her that the report would only be released under a court order. This prompted Susan to file a claim with IDPH. Claremont was cited and fined for violating the Nursing Home Care Act. Subsequently, Zelik contacted Levin & Perconti, a Chicago law firm who has represented nursing home residents and their families in neglect and abuse cases for more than two decades.

For further information or to interview Steven M. Levin of Levin & Perconti, please call (312) 332-2872.