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# Lawsuit Filed Against a Joliet Nursing and Rehab Center

Written by The Times Weekly

The family of 49-year-old John Eric Rush filed a lawsuit against Hillcrest Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Joliet, Ill. The suit alleges that John suffered injuries as a result of negligence while living at the facility. Steven M. Levin, Jaime A. Koziol and Greta M. Hafeman of Levin & Perconti represent Rush and his family in the case. The suit was filed in the Circuit Court of Cook County since the nursing home's owners and management company are headquartered in Evanston.

John was transferred from an Aurora nursing home to Hillcrest in July 2010. According to attorneys for Rush, he could not live independently because he had suffered several strokes and was paralyzed on his right side. As a result of his paralysis, he could not speak and was also wheelchair bound, putting him at risk for bedsores. During his residency at Hillcrest, Rush developed multiple bedsores and dehydration. He developed a pressure sore on his left heel that became infected and ultimately required amputation. Following his amputation, his family moved him to a different facility.

"Hillcrest staff was responsible for monitoring Rush's skin condition and frequently repositioning him to prevent bed sores from forming," noted Levin. "Once he developed pressure sores, they had a duty to prevent them from getting worse. Unfortunately, staff allowed John's sores to become infected, and he had to undergo an above the knee amputation of his left leg."

"My family decided to pursue legal action because we are outraged at the treatment that John received while in Hillcrest's care," said John's sister-in-law Andrea Kroesen of North Aurora. "When John arrived at the facility he was able to walk with a walker and supervision. When I removed him from their care, he had to have a leg amputation and was deathly ill. I wasn't sure if he would survive. If my actions against Hillcrest can save at least one patient and their family the worry, horror, frustration and pain that we encountered, then it is all worth it."

"Hillcrest's negligence took something away from John that can never be replaced," added Andrea. "John was paralyzed to the right side of his body. When he had to have an amputation it was his left leg - his only means of any mobility and independence. Now he cannot get out of bed by himself and it is very difficult to transport him. Not being able to transport him keeps him essentially trapped in a facility instead of being able to participate in everyday activities like seeing family, going to dinner or a movie."

Following John's injuries, his family filed a complaint with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). The IDPH cited the nursing home for Type A and Type B violations and fined the facility \$31,600. The IDPH also issued a conditional license to the facility. During this investigation, the IDPH found 23 incidents of verbal, sexual, physical or mental abuse between residents at Hillcrest during a five month period in 2011.

"Our firm currently has another lawsuit pending against Hillcrest," noted Levin. "We will continue to take action to protect the safety and well-being of current and future Hillcrest residents and hope to send a message that inadequate care and abuse will not be tolerated. We urge anyone who has witnessed abuse or neglect at Hillcrest to come forward and tell their stories."

Levin & Perconti is a law firm concentrating in all types of nursing home abuse and neglect, personal injury, medical malpractice, and wrongful death litigation. [www.levinperconti.com](http://www.levinperconti.com).

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