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**Trendel V Clare Oaks Assisi Healthcare Center**

**July 18, 2017** – Late yesterday, a jury returned a verdict on behalf of the estate of Dolores Trendel for \$4,111,477.66. Susan L. Novosad, Margaret P. Battersby Black, and Daniel A. Goldfaden of Levin & Perconti represented Dolores Trendel’s son and daughters. Mrs. Trendel died on March 15, 2015 at the age of 89.

The family alleged that a nursing home, Clare Oaks, located in Bartlett, IL, failed to administer Dolores’ Coumadin as ordered by her physician which was needed to prevent a stroke.

On February 23, 2011, 85 year old Dolores Trendel was transferred from St. Alexius Medical Center to Clare Oaks for physical therapy after a fall in her home in January 2011 left her with a fractured left hip. Clare Oaks and their employees knew that Mrs. Trendel required Coumadin therapy for her atrial fibrillation, per her physician's orders. She also required lab tests, including Prothrombin Time (PT) blood tests and International Normalized Ratio (INR) tests, to ensure that her medications were at therapeutic levels.

On March 16, 2011, an INR blood test resulted showing that Mrs. Trendel required more Coumadin to thin her blood to prevent clotting and a stroke. Inexplicably, her Coumadin was discontinued. Mrs. Trendel’s doctor insisted that he had not issued an order discontinuing the medication. She did not receive her Coumadin for 14 days. On March 30, 2011, she was observed with stroke like symptoms and was sent to St. Alexius Medical Center, where it was determined that her blood was not adequately thinned and she had suffered a stroke.

The lawsuit exposed that the nursing staff at Clare Oaks had not followed their facility policies for medication management and administration. Not only had they erroneously cut off Dolores’ medication, they failed to detect their error despite procedures in place that required a daily audit of all patients’ medication administration records.

Clare Oaks claimed that Dolores' physician and co-defendant, Dr. Percival Bigol, had discontinued the medication. Dr. Bigol denied he discontinued the Coumadin and the jury found him not liable.

Delores suffered a left middle cerebral artery stroke which resulted in right sided hemi-paresis. After the stroke, Mrs. Trendel's quality of life declined significantly until her death four years at the age of 89. The jury found that the stroke contributed to cause her death.

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