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\$2.7M verdict for fatal fall at South Side nursing home

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Michael F. Bonamarte IV

A Cook County jury has awarded \$2.7 million to the estate of a man who died from complications related to a fall at a South Side nursing home.

Plaintiff Steven Green in 2014 sued Southpoint Nursing and Rehabilitation Center LLC and Laquanta Jordan, a nurse employed there, alleging his father should have received assistance while walking.

Willie Green, 67, fell in the entryway of his room on Jan. 4, 2013 and sustained head injuries which required surgery. He died from complications on May 2, 2013.

Steven Green was represented by Michael F. Bonamarte IV and Andrew J. Thut of Levin & Perconti.

Jordan was voluntarily dismissed from the suit after the verdict was reached on Nov. 8 after a roughly weeklong trial before Cook County Associate Judge Thomas M. Donnelly.

The \$2,777,000.92 award comprises \$500,000 for disability experienced; \$1,000,000 for pain and suffering; \$277,000.92 for reasonable expense of necessary medical care; \$500,000 for shortened life expectancy; \$100,000 for loss of society and \$400,000 for grief and sorrow.

In the amended complaint filed Nov. 7, Steven Green claimed the nursing and rehabilitation facility was negligent because his father should have been found at high risk for falls due to cognitive impairment, decreased safety awareness and a history of fainting. He had been at the long-term care facility since August 2009.

Willie Green was moving about on his own when he fell and sustained a skull fracture and two brain hemorrhages, and he had to undergo multiple surgeries.

The case was filed under the Illinois Nursing Home Care Act.

The complaint claims the facility violated provisions of the act by failing to protect Willie Green from neglect, provide adequate supervision or follow written policies and procedures on nursing care.

Bonamarte said he and his client were pleased with the “just and satisfying” result.

Bonamarte said the defense argued Willie Green was independent and did not need any additional assistance. Alternatively, if he had needed assistance, the defense argued it would not have prevented his fall because they believed it was due to a fainting episode.

Matthew P. D’Avanzo of Johnson & Bell Ltd. represented Southpoint Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, LLC. He could not be reached for comment as of press time.

Steven Green said in a written statement issued by Levin & Perconti that he was motivated to sue in hopes that others may avoid what his family went through.

The case is *Steven Green v. Southpoint Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, et al.*, 14 L 11826.

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