

Bed Alarm: Nursing Facility Settles With Widow For Fall.

The patient was admitted to a nursing home in his late sixties suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

He had a history of falls. His wife insisted that the nursing home obtain and start using a device designed to be kept on his person, whether he was in bed, in a regular chair or in a wheelchair, which would trigger an alarm when he started to move to any significant degree.

He was put to bed one night without his alarm. He was found on the floor with a broken hip. Due to his advanced dementia, he just lay there on the floor in pain for some time and did not cry out for help. The hip fracture started a downward spiral in his health which ended in his death from pneumonia.

His widow's lawsuit in the Circuit Court, Waupaca County, Wisconsin was settled for \$87,000 before trial. Labarge v. Wisconsin Veterans' Home, 2007 WL 2216534 (Cir. Ct., Waupaca Co., Wisconsin, March 17, 2007).