

Nurse's Abusive Response To Call Bell: Termination Ruled Justified.

The Court of Appeals of Minnesota ruled that a long-term care facility had legal grounds to terminate a registered nurse for failing to respond appropriately to a resident's call bell.

The nurse had a history of verbal abuse of vulnerable residents and had already been through mandatory retraining before the incident in question.

A resident rang her call bell at night for assistance to go to the restroom. The nurse replied in a harsh tone over the intercom that she was turning off the resident's call light and she better not turn it on again. When she finally got to the room the nurse made an insulting remark about the resident being overly demanding of attention.

With or without her record, this one incident was grounds for termination, the court ruled. Swift v. Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, 2007 WL 2472347 (Minn. App., September 4, 2007).