

Gifts From Patients: Wrong, But Not Theft.

The Superior Court of Connecticut upheld a nursing-home admissions counselor's right to sue for defamation after her former employer told others she was fired for theft of a patient's property.

Even though the patient really did say she wanted the counselor to have her furniture after she died, it was an error in judgment, a violation of company policy and a valid basis for termination for the counselor to accept such a gift of personal property from the family of a deceased patient. However, it was not theft. **Gambardella v. Apple Health Care, Inc., 2006 WL 2556300 (Conn. Super., August 9, 2006).**