

Hyperthermia: Nursing Home Administrator's Name Placed On Disqualification List.

In early April the nursing home administrator spoke with the maintenance person about switching over from the heating to the cooling system in the building.

The weather was unusually hot, even for St. Louis, Missouri, during the first week of April. The administrator set up a "hydration cart" to see that juice and other fluids were available for the residents. She put the social services director in charge of the hydration cart and left for the weekend.

Two residents died from hyperthermia over the weekend.

Neglect is the failure to provide, by those responsible for the care, custody and control of a resident in a facility, the services which are reasonable and necessary to maintain the physical and mental health of the resident, when such failure presents either an imminent danger to the health, safety or welfare of the resident or a substantial probability that death or serious injury would result.

MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS
August 9, 2005

The Missouri Court of Appeals ruled the administrator was guilty of neglect and would be disqualified from future employment caring for vulnerable adults. Johnson v. Dept. of Health & Senior Services, __ S.W. 3d __, 2005 WL 1869071 (Mo. App., August 9, 2005).