

Bed Rails: Professional Judgment Is Required.

The Court of Appeals of Michigan has reaffirmed the principle that bed rails are now being seen by the courts as a form of physical restraint which requires an exercise of professional judgment.

A patient or patient's family is not automatically entitled to a finding of negligence when the bed rails are left down and the patient falls out of bed. They must prove that the patient's individualized assessment called for the bed rails to have been raised, or the case will not go forward against the patient's caregivers. Umbarber v. Hayes Green Beach Mem. Hosp., 2007 WL 624996 (Mich. App., March 1, 2007).