

## Harassment, Patients vs. Caregiver: Housekeeper Is Awarded Damages.

A female housekeeper was subjected to repeated on-the-job sexual harassment by the nursing home's male patients.

### **Repeated Complaints**

### **No Effective Response**

The housekeeper complained again and again after each incident occurred. A male social worker who was told to go with her when she went into one particular room stopped doing so. A resident who was supposed to get counseling did not.

She was told to clock out and do home another time that she complained.

Finally, after she went over her supervisor's head to the administrator, filed a grievance with her union and called in the local police, she was told it would be best if she and the facility parted company.

---

***The aide's lawsuit accused the nursing home of sexual harassment. The judge dismissed that aspect of the aide's lawsuit.***

***However, the jury awarded damages of \$65,000 for retaliation because management forced her to quit to silence her complaints.***

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
ILLINOIS

September 3, 2008

---

The jury in the US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois awarded her \$15,000 for lost wages and \$50,000 punitive damages because her employer retaliated against her for her complaints. ***Pickett v. Sheridan Health Care Ctr., 2008 WL 5517666 (N.D. Ill., September 3, 2008).***