

Dementia: Patient Drank Poison, Jury Gives Family \$3,000,000.

The family chose the facility because it had a secure unit dedicated to the care of dementia patients.

The patient went down to the kitchen himself to get some more of the cranberry juice the residents had been served earlier that day. Carelessly left out on a kitchen counter was a bottle of caustic cleaning product with the same red color as cranberry juice. The patient drank it and badly burned his mouth, throat and upper respiratory tract.

Anxious and agitated from his injuries he was physically and chemically restrained his last seven days before he died from aspiration pneumonia.

The jury in the Supreme Court, Kings County, New York, awarded \$3 million to his estate for inadequate supervision. **Reinhardt v. Sunrise, 2008 WL 611997 (Sup. Ct. Kings Co., New York, January 29, 2008).**