

Alzheimer's: Nurses Not Liable For Progression Of Condition.

The family hired a specialized geriatric home-health agency to care for the eighty-seven year-old Alzheimer's patient in her home.

Over the course of four years the patient's condition deteriorated significantly and she died. The family filed a lawsuit against the geriatric services provider for nursing negligence, claiming that mismanagement and neglect of her case resulted in her demise.

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive form of dementia. As the disease destroys the patient's brain cells the patient gradually loses control over memory, judgment and basic bodily functions.

Progressive physical wasting and mental lethargy are usual components of the disease process.

COURT OF APPEALS OF TEXAS
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The Court of Appeals of Texas agreed with the jury which heard the case in the county circuit court. The jury's verdict found no nursing negligence and no cause-and-effect link between the nursing care and the patient's overall decline and eventual death from Alzheimer's.

The court, in finding that this patient got the best of care, commented on the fact that the average Alzheimer's patient is on 18 different medications. This patient, on only 5, was certainly not being over-medicated. ***Mann v. Geriatric Services, Inc., 2005 WL 3445987 (Tex. App., December 14, 2005).***