

## Transport: Staff Must See That Vulnerable Patient's Belt Is Buckled.

The sixty year-old wheelchair-bound patient was diabetic and had had a stroke.

Because of his medical conditions he had had both of his legs amputated and could not use his right hand. He was basically helpless.

A nurses aide employed by the nursing home where he resided assisted the driver in loading him into a medical-transport van.

However, they neglected to fasten the belt securely around him to hold him safely in place.

When the van began to move, the patient fell out of the wheelchair and landed on his left hand. Due to compromised circulation, the minor abrasions on his left hand became gangrenous and four fingers had to be amputated.

He died from causes unrelated to the accident before his case went to court in the Supreme Court, Queens County, New York. The estate nevertheless obtained a \$100,000 verdict against the nursing home and the medical transport company.

Employees of both companies negligently failed to anticipate the special vulnerability and special needs of this patient, the jury concluded. **Estate of Seenandan v. Dependable Ambulette Service, 2007 WL 1287730 (Sup. Ct. Queens Co., New York, February 2, 2007).**