

Understaffing: Large Verdict Against Nursing Home.

His wife could no longer take care of him at home after a stroke a few months earlier. The patient also had cancer and had a feeding tube had been inserted into his stomach.

The ninety-two year-old patient died nine days after admission to the nursing home. A state investigation revealed he was severely dehydrated and malnourished and had very quickly developed infected bedsores before he died.

With a feeding tube it would have been relatively easy to provide sufficient fluid intake. However, there was reportedly no documentation of fluid intake being monitored.

The family's lawsuit in the Circuit Court, Hopkins County, Kentucky focused on the nursing home's parent corporation's business practices. Allegedly the patient was admitted because he was a high-acuity Medicare patient, not because the facility planned to and was able to meet his needs.

The jury verdict, including punitive damages, was \$40,750,000. **Offutt v. Harborside, 2010 WL 5790973 (Cir. Ct. Hopkins Co., Kentucky, November 16, 2010).**