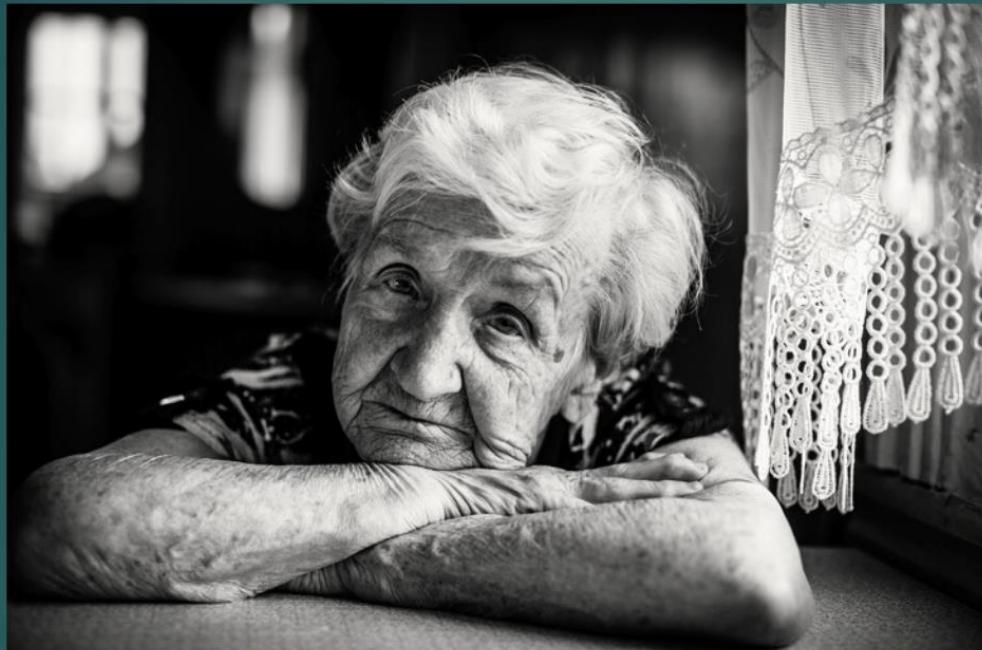


A Guide for Those Who are Concerned About Elder Abuse of a Loved One in a Nursing Home or Assisted Living Facility



HOW TO BE A VOICE

LEARN MORE ABOUT How To:

- SPOT THE SOMETIMES HIDDEN SIGNS OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT
- UNDERSTAND THE LAWS ON ELDER ABUSE
- PRIORITIZE YOUR ACTIONS
- KNOW YOUR LOVED ONE'S RIGHTS
- PICK THE RIGHT LAWYER (10 SIGNS OF THE RIGHT LAWYER)



DREESEN LAW

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Placing a loved one in a nursing home can be one of the most difficult decisions a loved one is forced to make. Often this decision is very emotional, and not thought out entirely. When you enroll a loved one into a nursing home you are entrusting the caregivers with more than just money. You are entrusting them with a life of a loved one.

With more and more of the United States population aging, nursing home and elderly communities are constantly expanding to help accommodate more patients. The elderly among us are particularly susceptible to neglect and abuse. While many nursing homes are exceptional, it is a discouraging fact that more and more big corporate business healthcare and nursing home industries cut corners to pad their bank accounts. This can involve under-staffing, hiring unqualified staff, turning a blind eye to an unfit staff member's behavior, and failing to incorporate appropriate safety equipment—all of which lead to patient neglect or abuse.

Many common types of nursing home abuse cases have been caused by these under qualified and inexperienced staff members. Employees are sometimes unable to handle certain situations and have been known to take out their frustrations on residents of the nursing homes. Studies show that over half of the suspicious deaths researched in nursing homes might have been causes by neglect or negligence including dehydration and malnutrition.



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In addition to common types of nursing home abuse, there are also several other types of abuse. Mental, physical, neglect and exploitation are all other forms of abuse that can happen in nursing homes. If a loved one has been victimized by the actions of a nursing home employee, it is your duty and right to seek legal attention. A compassionate, experienced nursing home abuse lawyer can help you understand your legal rights and guide you towards an appropriate course of action.

Here are some tale-tell signs not to ignore:

Signs of mental abuse can include fear, depression, withdrawal, behavior changes, weird behavior patterns, unwillingness to communicate and specific complaints by the resident.

Signs of physical abuse can include unexplained cuts, burns, bruises, swelling, broken bones, signs of the use of restraints (such as bruises, marks on wrists), and other wounds. Also, the misuse of various drugs to keep the patient needlessly sedated can cause excessive fatigue, withdrawal, confusion, loss of memory.

Signs of neglect can include bed sores, smells of urine and feces, unkempt appearance, untreated medical conditions, significant weight loss, signs of dehydration, such as chronic thirst, dry flaky skin, confusion

Signs of exploitation or financial abuse can be the sudden selling of property, missing or stolen property, irregularities in bank accounts and complaints by the resident about visits from strangers asking unusual questions.

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What is abuse according to the law? The following is from Missouri state law, but many states have similar laws, these are the general parameters of elder abuse.

Abuse – the infliction of physical, sexual, or emotional injury or harm including financial exploitation by any person, firm, or corporation ([**192.2400, RSMo**](#)).

Neglect – the failure to provide services to an eligible adult by any person, firm or corporation with a legal or contractual duty to do so, when such failure presents either an imminent danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the client or a substantial probability that death or serious physical harm would result ([**192.2400, RSMo**](#)).

Financial Exploitation – A person commits the crime of financial exploitation of an elderly or disabled person if such person knowingly and by deception, intimidation, or force obtains control over the elderly or disabled person's property with the intent to permanently deprive the elderly or disabled person of the use, benefit or possession of his or her property thereby benefiting such person or detrimentally affecting the elderly or disabled person ([**570.145, RSMo**](#)).

Bullying – intimidation or harassment that causes a reasonable person to fear for his or her physical safety or property and may consist of physical actions including gestures; cyberbullying; oral, electronic, or written communication; and any threat of retaliation for reporting of such acts. ([**192.2400, RSMo**](#))

If you suspect that a loved one has been a victim of the terrible and inhumane actions of a nursing home employee or supervisors. First, seek immediate and experienced medical attention or treatment. Choose a doctor not associated in any way with the facility and ask for their opinion of your loved one's condition and what caused it.

With such emotional conditions, it is often very hard to remember the legal rights that the victim of the abuse has. The victim has many legal rights and so do you. It is imperative that you know these rights. The team at Dreesen Law is specialized in protecting the rights of elders.

If you or someone you care about has been neglected or abused and needs you to stand up for them and be a voice, you will want a legal team who is compassionate toward you and tenacious in their quest for justice. You want a team who has experience and who can help you and the elder you care for win the justice and compensation they deserve.

Matt Dreesen and his legal team have dedicated his practice to the prosecution of cases of severe neglect and abuse of elders and dependent adults. Matt and his team have dealt with many cases in and secured amazing results and justice for his clients.

Matt Dreesen and his firm have the resources necessary to conduct a thorough investigation, take depositions, gather medical records, and hire medical experts to evaluate the care environment. Matt has the knowledge and unique ability to litigate successfully against the largest elder care corporations and hospitals in the country.

Matt stays dedicated to a small number of cases at a time and gives each case his personal care and compassionate attention. He will fight for those without a voice and bring about successful verdicts of justice.

Act Now - Be a Voice

If you have an elderly family member who has suffered abuse or neglect, call Dreesen Law Offices locally at

573-4040-LAW or toll free at 888-GO-4-JUSTICE to schedule a review of your case.

10 Ways to Identify the Right Lawyer for You

As you consider legal counsel, here are 10 ways to identify if a particular lawyer is right for you

An ideal lawyer will not just have a string of impressive credentials or gold lettering on his door. He or she will be caring, concerned, and devoted to their work. You need to think carefully before laying your trust in a lawyer after all in some cases your life, future, money, or property will be in his hands.

Apart from doing extensive research to short list possible lawyers you must ensure that there is not conflict of interest, that you understand everything the retainer agreement states, and that you have checked the references and details regarding the practice.

You will know the lawyer you have chosen is the perfect one if:

1. He makes an effort to spend time to understand your case himself. He will not assign a legal assistant to take facts of the case down.
2. From experience and knowledge, he will know what is relevant and what is not. He will set aside and ignore irrelevant facts, opinions, and personal emotions that cloud the case on hand.
3. He will insist that the footwork for the case be done thoroughly. All facts must be checked for accuracy and solid arguments jotted down with backing of earlier rulings.
4. He will not just focus on the problem at hand but examine the problem from all sides. This will create a complete picture highlighting all factors of relevance and the different ways one can approach the case.
5. He will use his foresight and anticipate moves by the opposition or opinions of the jury or judge and plan way ahead. Like a master chess player, he will plan the case not by the day but by many hearings ahead.



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6. He will not waste time beating around the bush or create verbose statements—many words strung together which look impressive but mean nothing. He will insist that the case and its arguments be clearly stated.
7. He will be self-disciplined, thorough, and self-confident. Courteous at all times he will respect you as well as all the staff who work for him.
8. He is recommended by not just his friends and relatives but by other professionals of good standing in the community and from his field.
9. He will help you feel at ease and that he has a personal interest in your loved one and in your situation. You will not feel like just another number.
10. He will lay the cards on the table and tell you clearly whether your case stands to win or lose. He will not claim that winning is guaranteed. He will be honest and upfront about his opinions and advice.

The bottom line is that the lawyer must be worthy of your trust. Use your inborn instincts and do not go by the lawyer's good looks or fancy car or office. After all it is competence in law and in court that is of essence to you.

Please contact us at Dreesen Law Firm for a free case evaluation and advice on how to secure justice for your loved one.

**Call or Text Us
Today at
636-888-5878**



**Learn More:
DreesenLaw.com**
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