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DECEMBER 14, 2018

## How Well Does Your Loved One's Nursing Home Handle Alzheimer's and Dementia Patients?

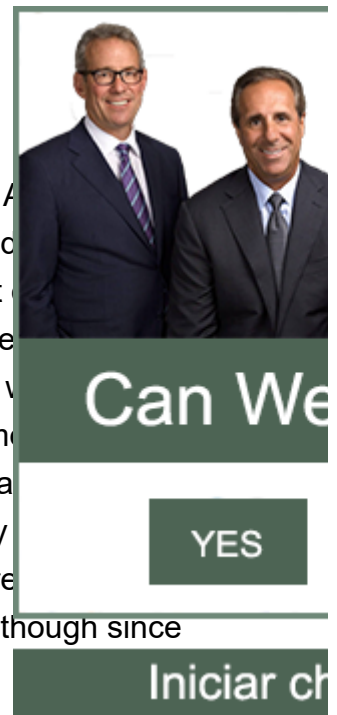
by Levin &amp; Perconti



### Alzheimer's Residents More Likely to Wander and Elope

For the estimated 5.5 million Americans who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's, a debilitating memory and mental behavior disease – life is not easy. And for people with one of the most common types of dementia age, 75 percent will be admitted to a nursing home by their 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and become fully dependent on someone else to care for them. Unfortunately, there are too many times when nursing home residents are ignored, abused or tragically lost in a wandering or elopement. In fact, the Alzheimer's Association reports there are close to 2 million cases of **abuse incidences** each year for dementia residents living in community settings such as nursing homes and long-term care facilities. Most long-term care ombudsmen will say the true incident rates are likely to be much higher though since abuse can come in many different ways including neglect.

**Wandering and elopement** represent some of the many behavioral problems triggered by nursing home neglect occurring in residents with the Alzheimer's and other dementias. In fact, six out of 10 people with dementia will wander and aimlessly move about within the facility or grounds without regard of their personal safety. For a better understanding of this phenomena, the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners (NCCDP) has identified several different reasons for wandering in nursing homes as well as the different types of wandering such as



environmentally cued wandering, recreational wandering, agitated purposeful wandering, fantasy and reminiscent wandering, and elopement. Elopement is the most dangerous type of wandering and occurs when a patient attempts to completely leave the nursing home and wander outside. Patients are often seriously hurt or killed during this type of wandering.

## Nursing Home Staff Are Responsible for Patient Safety

Direct-care workers, such as nurse aides and personal care attendants, provide most of the daily support to older adults battling dementia. They are responsible for bathing, feeding, medication administration, bathroom needs, dressing, housekeeping, food preparation and other activities, jobs most of these workers feel are demanding and sometimes difficult. In addition, these workers are responsible for the prevention of injury and safety to those in their care. However, many may not have received the training or have the standards of education necessary to provide dementia care and deal with wandering, a persistent challenge for administrators responsible for this special environment.

Wandering and elopement among people with memory disorders can be tragically dangerous. It's up to a trained, equipped, and **fully staffed care department** that it never happens.

## Discuss Wandering and Elopement Concerns with an Attorney

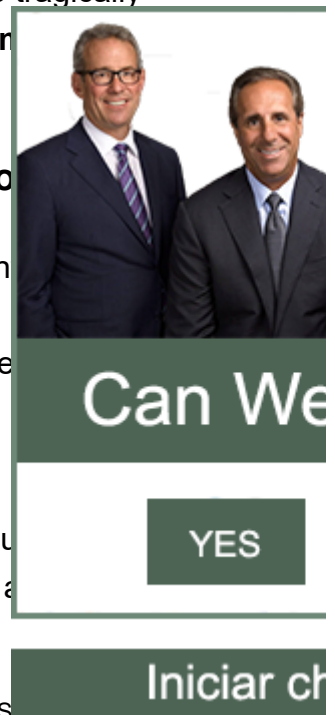
Our Illinois nursing home abuse and neglect attorneys at Levin & Perconti have handled numerous cases in which loved ones have wandered and been found deceased because of an elopement event. If you have a family member with dementia who was neglected, please contact our Chicago **nursing home** attorneys to discuss your situation and let us help you.

Our consultations are always free, confidential, and handled by one of our attorneys. **Click here** to fill out an online request form or call us toll-free at 374-1417 or 312-332-2872.

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Tagged: illinois nursing homes, nursing home neglect, nursing home staff and understaffing

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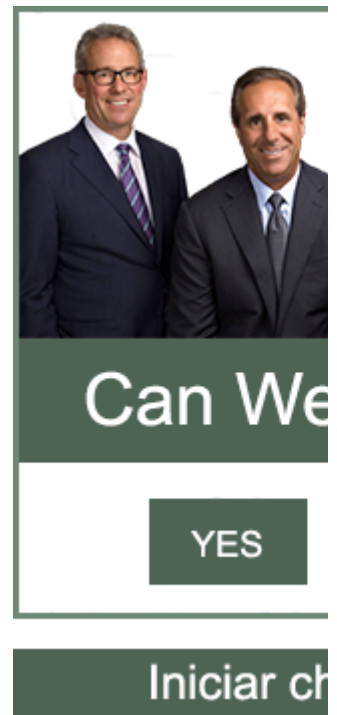
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