

# Jonathan Rosenfeld's Nursing Homes Abuse Blog

## Family Of Neglected Nursing Home Resident Awarded \$42 Million By Jury

Posted by ***Jonathan Rosenfeld*** on December 03, 2010

Joseph Clint Offutt lived an admirable life. Like many of his generation, Mr. Offutt served in World War II, working on the farm and was a dedicated husband for 58 years. Yet despite all of his accomplishments in life, age began to creep up on Mr. Offutt.

After suffering a stroke in 2007, Mr. Offutt's family realized that they were no longer able to care for him at home so they looked for a skilled nursing facility.

On March 25, 2008 Mr. Offutt was admitted to Harborside of Madisonville (currently known as Hillside Villa Care and Rehabilitation Center). Just nine days later, Mr. Offutt was transferred to a nearby hospital for multiple complications he developed during his brief stay including:

- Severe dehydration
- Malnutrition
- Bed sores
- Infections

On April 3, 2008, at the age of 92, Mr. Offutt passed from the complications that developed during his brief stay at Harborside (Kentucky).

Jonathan Rosenfeld represents victims of nursing home abuse and neglect throughout the country. For more information please visit Nursing Homes Abuse Blog ([www.nursinghomesabuseblog.com](http://www.nursinghomesabuseblog.com)), Bed Sore FAQ ([www.bedsorefaq.com](http://www.bedsorefaq.com)) or call Jonathan directly at (888) 424-5757.

As a result of the poor care, Mr. Offutt's family initiated a wrongful death lawsuit against Harborside and the parent company [Sunbridge Healthcare Corporation](#).

After three weeks of hearing evidence in the case, a jury awarded Mr. Offutt's family \$42.75 million comprised of \$1 million pain and suffering, \$1.75 million for his wife's loss and \$40 million for punitive damages.

### **Short Stays, Rapid Declines**

While the juries award in this matter is certainly not typical for most nursing home negligence matters, the fact pattern unfortunately is. Many of the nursing home negligence cases my office is currently prosecuting involve the development of a medical complication after a brief admission to the facility.

In some cases the rapid spiral of poor care stems from the fact that the patient is new and staff may be unfamiliar with their medical needs. In a substantial number of cases, I tend to see facilities over-promise and under-deliver when it comes to being capable of providing care that the patient requires and that the family was assured of.

Either case is unacceptable and merits further evaluation by an attorney who prosecutes nursing home cases to determine if the correlation between admission and death is a coincidence or due to the negligence of the facility.

### **Related:**

[Jury awards \\$42.75M in nursing home death](#) Lexington Herald-Leader

[Hours After Admission To Illinois Nursing Home For 'Respite Care', Resident Fractures Hip](#)

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Respite Care: A Welcome Break For Caregivers Or Exposing A Loved One To Unnecessary Harm?

Lawsuit Alleges: One Week In The Nursing Home Results In Significant Deterioration Of Pressure Sores & Sepsis

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