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Levin & Perconti File a Nursing Home Abuse and Neglect and Wrongful Death Lawsuit Against International Village, Affiliated Dialysis, Renal Therapies, and Lashon Ray

Chicago, IL – Levin & Perconti has filed a nursing home abuse and neglect and wrongful death lawsuit in the Circuit Court of Cook County. Levin & Perconti has filed the suit on behalf of Luzella Roberts's surviving family members under the Illinois Nursing Home Care Act and common law negligence. The suit was filed on July 25, 2008.

Ms. Roberts was a seventy-nine year old dialysis patient. Ms. Roberts's daughter supervised her care and provided for her medical needs on a daily basis. She entered International Village, a long term care facility on Chicago's southwest side, intending to stay for a ten day respite stay to give her daughter a short break. Instead, International Village and its dialysis contractor caused her death.

International Village contracted for its residents to receive dialysis services provided by Affiliated Dialysis Center, Inc and Renal Therapies, LLC. Ms. Roberts began dialysis successfully on September 21, 2006. Ms. Roberts's medical records show that she was to receive dialysis only through the catheter in her right subclavian vein and not through the fistula in her left arm. The fistula access in her left arm had been closed due to severe swelling.

On September 25, 2006, Ms. Roberts was treated by defendant Lashon Ray, who began dialysis through her left arm fistula. The dialysis treatment was scheduled to last four hours that day. Ms. Roberts's daughter arrived three hours into the procedure and noticed the technician's error. When they removed the needle from her fistula, Ms. Roberts

began to bleed uncontrollably and was rushed to a hospital. Lashon Ray's puncturing the fistula in Ms. Roberts's arm set a process in motion that led to multiple surgeries and multiple hospitalizations, and eventually caused her death on October 31, 2006.

Steven Levin of Levin & Perconti filed the case in Cook County on behalf of Ms. Roberts's family. Levin stated: "Ms. Roberts was only supposed to be at International Village for a ten day respite stay so that her daughter could take a short break. Instead, the improper dialysis treatment she received caused her death. Under the Illinois Nursing Home Care Act, nursing homes are liable for the negligent acts of their agents. Here, Affiliated Dialysis Center, Inc, Renal Therapies, LLC and Lashon Ray were all agents of International Village. "

Levin added that Ms. Roberts's situation provides a sad reminder of how treatment staff without proper training can cause deadly results: "the dialysis technician did not observe the basic guidelines in Ms. Roberts's medical information. It's truly saddening that her death was easily preventable and avoidable. Many people that entrust their loved ones to nursing home facilities for short stays expect safe and quality care. However, this case shows that even short respite stays can claim lives."

Levin & Perconti is a nationally renowned law firm concentrating in all types of personal injury, medical malpractice and wrongful death litigation. The lawyers at Levin & Perconti are committed to protecting and vindicating the rights of people who are injured by the negligence of others. Please contact the firm at (312) 332-2872 or visit www.levinperconti.com for more information.