

# Jonathan Rosenfeld's Nursing Homes Abuse Blog

## Mentally Ill Nursing Home Patients To Have More Care Options

*Posted at 5:55 AM on April 5, 2010 by Jonathan Rosenfeld*

McKnight's had a [recent story](#) about how more than 4,500 mentally ill nursing home patients living in Illinois facilities will soon have the option of moving to smaller, less nursing intensive facilities under the terms of a settlement with the American Civil Liberties Union. The settlement applies to patients living in nursing homes categorized as Institutions for Mental Diseases or IMD's, of which there are approximately 25 within the state.

The move comes after the well publicized problems regarding younger, mentally-ill patients living amongst a predominately elderly nursing home community.

A time-line for providing the new housing options has not been released.

*My take:*

Nursing homes are medical facilities for people who require skilled nursing, not for the mentally ill. In this sense, I do feel as though moving younger, mentally ill patients out of nursing homes is a good step towards improving the safety of the fragile nursing home population.

However, my reservation regarding this development is the current lack of facilities on hand to accommodate these mentally ill people. I hope that every facility, be it new or old, receive a complete review of credentialing to assure that the mentally-ill are appropriately cared for in their new living arrangements.

As I have seen firsthand, quasi-nursing facilities such as group homes, day facilities and other alternative living arrangements can be dangerous for the

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.

patients' physical and psychological well-being when staff at the facilities fail to monitor patients and take necessary protective actions.

Related Nursing Homes Abuse Blog Entries:

[Illinois Attorney General 'Cracks The Whip' At Violent Criminals Living Amongst Nursing Home Patients](#)

[Feds Yank Funding From Another Chicago Nursing Home With A Troubled Past](#)

[Family Claims Assisted Living Facilities Neglect Resulted In Death Of Mentally Disabled Woman](#)

[Are Group Homes A Viable Alternative To Nursing Homes?](#)

Strellis & Field, Chartered

**Chicago Office**

444 N. Wells St., Ste 202  
Chicago, IL 60610  
Tel: 312.201.0000

**Belleville Office**

216 W. Washington Street  
Belleville, IL 62226  
Tel: 618.235.8701

**Waterloo Office**

115 East Mill Street  
Waterloo, IL 62298  
Tel: 618.939.3402

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.