



Jonathan Rosenfeld's Nursing Homes Abuse Blog

Will More Post-Mortem Investigations Help Reveal More Instances Of Nursing Home Abuse?

*Posted by **Jonathan Rosenfeld** on June 03, 2011*

Acknowledging situations where 'accidental' or 'suspicious' nursing home deaths may have gone without any formal investigation, South Carolina officials are considering ways to effectively investigate these situations.

Under the current system in South Carolina, after a nursing home patient dies from 'natural causes' the body may be transferred to a funeral home without any involvement from the local coroner.

Given that in many circumstances the determination between natural vs. accidental death is likely to be made by a physician who is employed by the nursing home, some South Carolina coroners are calling for their offices to be notified every time a nursing home patient dies.

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), Bed Sore FAQ (www.bedsorefaq.com) or call Jonathan directly at (888) 424-5757 (www.rosenfeldinjurylawyers.com).

Theoretically, the notification of the coroner would both help confirm the cause of death and trigger an investigation into a [suspicious death](#) quickly when the circumstances surrounding the death are both fresh in the minds of the people involved. For the decedents family, a timely investigation would also help them get some piece of mind as to concerns of poor care or abuse at the nursing home.

Considering that an independent party would be able to make these important determinations regarding the cause of death, I can only believe that this procedural change is a good thing for grieving families and patient care.

Given that many [nursing home abuse and neglect cases](#) hinge upon physical evidence-- such as the condition of a decedents body-- I would hope that this policy would effectively root out cases where there indeed been a situation involving mistreatment.

On the other hand, I would similarly think that many of the nursing homes would be in favor of a shift in policy as a determination as to the cause of death by an independent party would likely help reduce any wrongful allegations of poor care.

Read more about this suggested policy impacting [South Carolina Nursing Homes here](#).

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[Autopsies May Help Families Determine If Their Loved One Was A Victim Of Nursing Home Neglect Or Abuse](#)

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