



## Jonathan Rosenfeld's Nursing Homes Abuse Blog

### Murder At Illinois Group Home Highlights Problems With Troubled System

*Posted by **Jonathan Rosenfeld** on April 07, 2011*

The death of a 42-year-old Paul McCann, a resident at an Illinois Group Home is raising some eyebrows both regarding the type of care provided to people in these living arrangements and the lack of transparency the state has in place with respect to regulation of these facilities.

The Chicago Tribune recently had an [insightful article](#), "Memo: Ill knew of group home abuses before death" highlighting the recent death of McCann who apparently died from injuries he sustained when he was assaulted by two staff members at a group home operated by Graywood Foundation in January.

Unknown to McCann's family, the facility had been cited for similar abuse of residents by various staff members months before McCann's death.

Despite the fact that the Illinois Department of Human Services, the agency responsible for regulating group home, actually found the conditions to be so heinous that they blocked the facility from accepting new residents. A 2009

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 ([www.rosenfeldinjurylawyers.com](http://www.rosenfeldinjurylawyers.com)).

memo prepared after an investigation at Graywood by the Illinois Department of Human Services Office of Inspector General further concluded that:

- The facility was obstructing investigations
- Had substantially higher rates of substantiated complaints related to abuse
- Fostered an environment of no employee accountability

Even after documented concerns regarding patient safety were filed with the state, no warnings were communicated to other residents or their families--- simply because such disclosure is not mandated by the state. Which in turn, highlights the lack of applicable legislation to disclose information about group homes in Illinois.

Praised by some as an alternative to institutional settings, Illinois groups homes house care for more than 9,300 mentally and physically disabled people across the state. Though many facilities indeed provide a tremendous opportunity for disabled people to live with an sense of pride in a supportive arrangement, we certainly need to re-evaluate the need more intensive inspection and regulation of this expanding living arrangement.

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[Is This An Attempt To 'Control' A Patient? Or Is This Simply Another Attempt To Cover Up Abuse In A Group Home?](#)

Thankfully, We Now Have Many Laws To Protect The Elderly From Abuse In A Variety Of Settings. However, Laws Are Worthless, If The People For Whom They Are Intended To Help Are Unaware Of Them

Group Homes Plagued By Patterns Of Abuse & Lack Of Employee Accountability

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