

Abuse in Nursing Homes Is Oftentimes Neglect

Sometimes, the signs of abuse in a nursing home are very hard to detect. This is particularly the case if the person being abused is actually being neglected instead of being abused outright. Make no mistake about it, however, neglect is certainly the equivalent of abuse. Here are some signs that you should be wary of.

Depression

People who are neglected oftentimes retreat into depression. They feel unwanted, as if they are a burden and as if there really isn't anything to look forward to. If you were in the same situation, you'd likely feel much the same. If you suddenly see the symptoms of depression manifest in an older individual who is in a nursing home, make sure you ask them what's going on and, if necessary, make an assessment of their care.

Filth

No one in a professional medical facility should be anything less than clean. Hygiene, in fact, is one of the major factors in why modern medical care, when properly delivered, is so effective. The fact that wounds can be cleaned and freed of bacteria, that doctors and nurses know when filth presents a hazard and that anyone, even if they are bedridden, can be provided with a proper cleaning all contribute to the fact that we live longer, healthier lives than ever before. This is a basic right of anyone in a nursing home and, if you notice that your loved one isn't as clean as they should be, it's a sign of neglect.

Losing Weight

Sometimes, nursing homes will fail to meet the dietary requirements of their residents and this can result in rapid weight loss. Particularly if the person being cared for has dietary conditions that make certain foods downright dangerous to them—diabetes, for instance—this is a huge risk. If it seems like someone you love is losing a lot of weight in a nursing home, be sure to check to see if they're getting the right kinds of foods for their needs.

Contacting a Lawyer

A [nursing home abuse lawyer](#) can help you file a lawsuit against a negligent facility. Remember, however, that the abuse has to be stopped before anything else is undertaken. Make sure that your loved one is provided with proper care and, if the nursing home they're in seems incompetent, negligent or just downright callous toward the needs of their residents, find another option and move your loved one as soon as possible.