
ILLINOIS INJURY LAWYER NEWS BRIEF

July 30, 2010

NURSING HOME ABUSE AND NEGLECT

JULY 31, 2010

Illinois Nursing Home Violation: Edwardsville Terrace

Edwardsville Terrace, a care facility in Southern Illinois, recently received several Type "A" Violations from the Illinois Department of Public Health and fined \$20,000. The violations resulted from a mismanaged healthcare emergency situation at the facility which involved nursing home abuse and neglect.

A mentally disabled and diabetic resident of the facility had been ill for several weeks. However, staff of the nursing home failed to properly provide close monitoring after the illness, such as recorded daily vital signs. In addition, they did not properly check the resident's blood-sugar levels. Ultimately, the resident had a severe reaction to a medication, which nursing home staff should have known was going to occur.

Illinois nursing home investigators declared that Edwardsville Terrace staff had been negligent in failing to provide proper oversight of the resident's illness and developing complications. They should have enacted necessary, systematic check-ups to ensure that the resident received the proper treatment.

Many residents live in nursing homes specifically because the homes are suppose to provide the quick, expert medical care necessary in life and death emergency situations. But all too often, nursing homes fail to provide the care that residents count on. Failure to provide proper emergency care is just one of many forms of [nursing home negligence](#).

Our [Chicago nursing home lawyers](#) at Levin & Perconti have experience fighting for victims of negligent nursing home care. Be sure to contact them or any similar attorney if you know of violations similar to the one at Edwardsville Terrace.

The Illinois Department of Health produces quarterly reports on nursing home violators. To access the IDPH report on this violation, please [click the link](#).

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Posted In: [Quarterly Violator List](#)

JULY 30, 2010

Illinois Nursing Home Reform Bill Signed Into Law

The AP reports that yesterday, Governor Pat Quinn signed an Illinois nursing home reform bill into law. The new legislation will serve to protect nursing home residents from abuse and neglect while improving the quality of care in Illinois nursing homes. Our [Chicago nursing home attorneys](#) have been actively involved in the fight for better care and are pleased to see new measures in place.

The bill is the result of months of hard work by lawmakers, nursing home advocates, family members and community organizations that all saw a need for reform in our nursing homes. The *Chicago Reporter* first called attention to the inadequate care and racial disparities in Chicago nursing homes last July. The *Chicago Tribune* later ran a series of "Compromised Care" reports that drew widespread attention to the issues surrounding nursing home residents in Illinois. Both of these publications did an excellent job of raising public awareness surrounding poor care in our nursing homes and their reports forced lawmakers to examine the problems in Illinois nursing homes.

In October, the governor convened a Nursing Home Task Force to study the issues, including the practice of housing young residents suffering from mental illnesses alongside older, vulnerable residents. Several months later, bills in both the House and Senate were introduced to address the problems identified by the Task Force. This work resulted in bill that was signed yesterday by the Governor.

The legislation will take a number of steps to improve care in nursing homes throughout Chicago and across the state. One of the most important measures is increased staffing ratios. This will help to ensure that nursing homes are better staffed. When nursing homes have proper staffing, workers can give better care and attention to individual residents, leading to fewer instances of abuse and neglect. The new law will also require the Illinois Department of Public Health to employ more nursing home inspectors who will go into the field to inspect nursing homes to make certain that they comply with the [Illinois Nursing Home Care Act](#).

Our attorneys commend advocates and lawmakers for their work to bring positive changes to Illinois nursing homes. We hope that the measures brought about by this legislation will bring better quality care to residents and reduce the incidence of [nursing homes abuse and neglect](#) throughout the state.

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JULY 30, 2010

Nursing Home Lawsuit Filed Against Negligent Facility

Frances Graham was 81 years old and suffering from Alzheimer's disease when she died at the Andrew Elijah Guest Home – a health facility that was supposed to care for elderly residents in need of close supervision and care. However, Ms. Graham was unable to die with dignity, as her passing was caused by severe bed sores that were 4 inches deep in some areas, rotting down to the tendon. In addition, at the time of her death her body was covered in cuts and bruises. Eventually, her visiting son noticed that she was having trouble breathing; he demanded she be sent to the emergency room where she was diagnosed with pneumonia and died shortly after.

The chilling circumstances of her death prompted a [nursing home lawsuit](#) against the Andrew Elijah Guest Home, reports *The Oakland Tribune*. The pressure sores that had bore through Ms. Graham's skin were caused by inadequate care, as staff members left her immobile in her bed for days at a time without proper cleaning and movement.

Also, staff members at the nursing home allowed another resident sharing a room with Ms. Graham to severely attack the vulnerable senior with a hair pick. The cuts and bruises found of her body were caused by the attack. The attacking roommate had a history of aggressive behavior and was unable to speak English. However, instead of properly investigating the new roommate to ensure that she posed no threat to Ms. Graham, nursing home staff did nothing and set the stage for the [elderly assault](#).

On top of all of that, records revealed that staff members were illegally housing Ms. Graham at the facility, because the particular home where Ms. Graham stayed provided inadequate staffing levels for someone with her disability. The facility was intended only to house more functioning seniors. In other words, as soon as Ms. Graham was allowed to enter the facility, her mistreatment was virtually a foregone conclusion. This isn't the first case of negligence at the facility. Last year the nursing home was cited by public health officials because one resident suffering from dementia had not visited a doctor in five years. State law required yearly doctor visits.

Our [Chicago nursing home abuse attorneys](#) at Levin & Perconti remain shocked by the degree of abuse and negligence that pervades many elder nursing facilities. Far too many of our seniors are forced to live in squalid conditions with basic needs unmet, because nursing home administrators fail to commit the necessary resources to provide proper care. Please do not let similar acts of abuse go unreported. Contact our offices if you know any nursing home abuse or negligence.

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Posted In: [Nursing Home Negligence](#)

JULY 30, 2010

Chicago nursing homes reprimanded for misleading its mentally ill patients

The [Chicago nursing home lawyers](#) at Levin & Perconti were happy to know that for-profit Chicago nursing home operators were finally issued a stinging reprimand from a federal judge this week. The judge called the [misleading Chicago nursing homes](#) out for using "scare tactics" to persuade psychiatric patients to remain in nursing home facilities rather than moving to supportive community housing that specializes in serving the mentally

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ill. The federal ruling was made public this week and is directly related to a landmark proposed Illinois court settlement. Illinois authorities in the court settlement promised to offer supportive community-based housing and treatment to nearly 4500 psychiatric patients that are currently living in two dozen large nursing homes known as Institutions for Mental Diseases (“IMDs”). But, Chicago nursing home operators worried about their profits recently distributed “information sheets” to their residents and residents’ families asserting that the proposed settlement lacks details. The information sheet also scares the residents to believe that the settlement could strip away protections for individuals who leave the Illinois nursing home facilities, implying that some could be left hungry, homeless, and without care.

The judge ordered the Illinois nursing homes to stop distributing the “information sheets.” The judge stated that: “implications that those transferred to a community setting would be left without housing, food, or medical care ... are misleading in that the settlement provides that the community placements are to include provisions for such.” The judge also cited many other claims in the “information sheets” that he described as inaccurate and incendiary. In a very strong demand, the judge ordered the Illinois nursing home operators to stop contacting the psychiatric patients without permission from the attorneys representing the mentally ill patients involved in the lawsuit.

More information about the judge’s ruling reprimanding the [Illinois nursing homes](#) is available at the *Chicago Tribune*.

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JULY 28, 2010

Nursing Home Negligence Lawsuit Filed After Falling Death

Eighty-nine year old Agnes Hauser died at the Davenport Good Samaritan Society late last summer following a fall in her room at the nursing home.

The *Quad-City Times* reported on the new suit which alleges [nursing home negligence](#) against the facility for its failure to properly assess Ms.

Hauser as a fall risk, failure to develop adequate interventions to prevent the fall, and failure to properly train its staff to handle similar potential risks.

Ms. Hauser was only at the facility slightly more than three months before falling in her room. When taken to the nearby hospital, doctors discovered that she had broken her neck, and they put her in a neck halo. The halo required very close supervision and cleaning, because the halo caused her neck skin to rub and tear. Because of that, nursing home staff needed to provide aggressive care to wash the harmed area and remove dead skin.

Ms. Hauser ultimately had to get the halo replaced, and died at the nursing home shortly after that replacement.

Ms. Hauser’s daughter filed the lawsuit which alleged that Good Samaritan was negligent in allowing her mother to fall at the facility. Nursing homes are required to fairly assess the risks posed to each particular resident’s health and safety. The facility must then take the appropriate steps to limit the chance of harm or injury accordingly. However, in this case, the nursing home is claimed to have failed by not properly ensuring that Ms. Hauser was never put into a position where the risk of her falling was high.

Injuries and negligence like this occur every day at nursing homes across the country. Falls, in particular, are all too common occurrence at these care facilities. What’s worse is that these harmful falls often begin a chain of medical complications that frequently ends in permanent disability or death. Our [Chicago nursing home lawyers](#) at Levin & Perconti fight every day for victims of this [nursing home negligence](#). In one case out of Lake County, we successfully negotiated a \$1 million settlement with the nursing home facility after a resident died from complications following a fall. As in the case of Ms. Hauser, the nursing home in Lake County knew that the resident was prone to falls but did nothing to limit the reoccurrence of the deadly accident. Please seek representation if you know anyone who suffered similar injury or death due to preventable falls at a nursing home.

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JULY 25, 2010

Illinois Nursing Home Violation: Collinsville Rehabilitation & Health Care Center

The Collinsville Rehabilitation & Health Care Center, a facility in Southern Illinois near St. Louis, recently received several Type “A” Violations from the Illinois Department of Public Health and fined \$20,000. The violations resulted from mismanaged situation resulting in one resident sexually abusing another.

One resident at the facility was allowed to attempt sexual assault on another resident on two separate occasions. The abusive resident went up to the victim without her notice while she was leaving a bathroom and pulled up her skirt. The victim immediately told staff members about the situation, but they did nothing. Later, the same resident went back into the victim’s room, held her to her bed, told her to be quiet, and attempted to remove her garments. Luckily, the victim’s screams ultimately scared the man away, and he fled the room.

Records indicated that the man had a history of drug and alcohol abuse, abusive conduct, and mental illnesses. He was admitted to the facility from the U.S. Medical Center for federal prisoners in Springfield, Missouri. The Collinsville facility had failed to perform even a basic background check on the individual before admitting him.

Illinois nursing home investigators declared that Collinsville Center staff had been negligent in failing to protect the abused resident from her attacker and not properly screening and dealing with the abusive resident.

Negligent nursing homes are dangerous living environment for seniors, because staff members do not adequately protect vulnerable residents from both internal and external threats. Those threats come in both physical abuse and negligent emergency care. In either care, victims and their families deserve compensation for the losses they suffer.

Our **Chicago nursing home lawyers** at Levin & Perconti have experience fighting for victims of negligent nursing home care. Be sure to contact them or any similar attorney if you know of violations similar to the one at Collinsville Community Center. The Illinois Department of Health produces quarterly reports on nursing home violators. To access the IDPH report on this violation, please [click the link](#).

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JULY 24, 2010

Illinois Caregiver Steals from Elderly Patient

The *Daily Herald* reported this week on a disturbing example of **elder financial exploitation** out of Wheaton, Illinois. Angelica Ledesma was hired to care for an 82-year old elderly woman who lived in the western Chicago suburb. Like so many other seniors when they reach a certain age, the Wheaton woman needed close assistance to complete necessary day-to-day responsibilities, and Ledesma was tasked with providing that needed care.

However, authorities discovered that Ledesma was interested in more than the job of assisting her elderly client. Instead, the caregiver hoped to profit in other ways from her position. While at the elderly Wheaton woman's home, Ledesma reportedly stole several valuable pieces of jewelry.

In a two month period from December to February this year Ledesma stole two gold rings (one containing multiple rubies), crystal figurines, and a bracelet. On top of all of that, Ledesma also snatched the engagement ring that the Wheaton woman's deceased husband had given to her decades prior. In total, the stolen items had a value around \$5,000.

The theft of the engagement ring proved to be Ledesma undoing, as its absence spurred the elderly victim into a panicked search of her home. Ledesma attempted to return the items when it was discovered that they were missing, but she eventually confessed when questioned by police about the missing items.

Elder financial exploitation continues to affect hundreds of thousands of seniors each year. Some attempts are being made at limiting the problem, including passage of a new law in Illinois to train bank workers on the signs of financial abuse. However, the new law addresses only one forms of financial exploitation. Many other forms, including theft occurring in nursing homes, are likely to continue unless individuals report any suspicious activity. Our **Chicago nursing home abuse attorneys** at Levin & Perconti are committed to helping victims of this abuse receive the compensation they deserve for their losses. Please contact us if you know of a victim, so that we can assist in the recovery process.

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Posted In: [Financial Exploitation](#)

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

JULY 31, 2010

Family Awarded \$56 Million Medical Malpractice Award

The *Chappaqua-Mount Kisco Dispatch* recently wrote about the latest development in an eye-popping **medical malpractice case** resulting in a record setting verdict last year.

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The Swanson family was awarded \$56 million from a medical malpractice jury verdict late last year. The case stemmed from the medical errors that occurred at the Northern Westchester Hospital during the 2003 birth of their son. The couple filed the suit against the hospital and several staff members at the facility including their obstetrician, Dr. Carla Eng-Kohn.

The problems began when the medical staff discovered that the delivery involved shoulder dystocia. Shoulder dystocia is a condition that arises when an unborn child's shoulders become trapped against the mother's pelvic bones. The condition does not automatically result in injury to the child so long as medical professionals acting in a timely and appropriate manner.

However, the medical staff at the hospital in this case failed to relieve the dystocia in a timely manner. As a result the baby was delivered with brain damage, nerve damage, internal bleeding, cervical bruising, facial bruising, and arm bruising.

Unfortunately, **medical errors during childbirth** are a common occurrence at many hospitals. The results of the errors are often catastrophic, leading to lifelong injuries and at times, death. Our **Chicago medical malpractice lawyers** at Levin & Perconti have fought many legal battles for victims of hospital error during childbirth. For example, in one case we secured a \$6.7 million verdict in a case where an inexperienced medical resident performed a vaginal delivery on a breeched baby. The result was, as in this case, was shoulder dystocia leading to a crippling arm injury on the infant.

With so much on the line during childbirth, medical professionals must ensure that they do not commit preventable errors. Please contact our office if you may have been the victim of negligent care during child birth.

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Posted In: [Birth Injury](#)

JULY 30, 2010

Doctor Operates on Wrong Finger during Surgery

A state medical board reprimanded a doctor last week for **medical error** following a revelation that he operated on the incorrect body part of a patient during an operation at the Rhode Island Hospital.

The Providence Journal reported that the patient had degenerative joint disease in both hands. He had been under the care of orthopedic surgeon Dr. Edward Akelman for five years before the 2009 surgical mistake performed by the doctor. Dr. Akelman was made aware of his mistake while the patient was still unconscious in the middle of the procedure and subsequently performed the correct operation before the patient woke.

An investigation into the error by the state health department discovered that the correct hand had been marked as the surgical site, but there was no marking indicating what fingers needed to be operated upon. Hospital protocols required the specific fingers be marked to avoid just the error that occurred here.

Further investigation showed that two separate finger operations were planned each with its own surgical protocols that needed to be followed. But the medical team treated the two operations as one single procedure. As a result, the team cut corners and skipped necessary steps that are usually required for each unique operation. As so often happens when medical professionals sacrifice care for speed, the mistake was made.

The most fundamental aspect of any surgical procedure is operating on the correct part of the body. Amazingly, wrong-site surgeries occur frequently during all sorts of operations. In fact, the same hospital where this error occurred had made five other wrong-site mistakes in the last three years.

If medical professionals are capable of making **surgical mistakes** of even that fundamental nature, it is clear that more nuanced errors occur every day at hospitals across the country. Our **Chicago medical malpractice lawyers** at Levin & Perconti are committed to fighting for the rights of those injured by medical errors that should have been prevented.

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JULY 29, 2010

Female Patients Susceptible to Failure to Diagnose Heart Problems

KTBS.com recently reported on the prevalence and consequences of **medical error** involving misdiagnosis of cardiac problems in female patients.

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As the report indicated, a misdiagnosis can occur in several forms: diagnosing the patient with the wrong condition, failing to diagnose anything at all ([missed diagnosis](#)), or delaying diagnosis and allowing complications to develop.

One of the most deadly forms of misdiagnosis involves heart health. A recent study discussed in the article points to the fact that doctors are much more likely to miss critical heart problem warning signs in female patients than in male patients

The study involved over 300 doctors who examined test medical records, one of a female patient and one of a male patient. Each patient showed the same symptoms. The doctors' hypothetical diagnosis and treatment revealed the gender bias. The male test patient was diagnosed with heart problems more than thirty percent more frequently than the woman in the sample.

The prevalence of misdiagnoses is widespread, with many people never realizing that they have been victims. The National Patient Safety Foundation reports that nearly one in six people have been misdiagnosed at some point in their medical history. In particular, women under the age of 55 are seven times more likely to be misdiagnosed and sent home from the hospital. Once sent home, the chance of dying from heart complications increase by fifty percent.

For that reason, our [Chicago medical malpractice lawyers](#) at Levin & Perconti continue to encourage anyone who suspects they may have suffered because of this medical error to contact our representatives. Many healthcare provider errors are never fully uncovered until legal experts begin investigating circumstances to better understand the causes of certain medical problems.

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Posted In: [Failure to Diagnose Cardiac](#)

JULY 27, 2010

ITLA President Explains Need for Legal Rights for Injured Patients

On July 24th the *Chicago Tribune* published a letter from Illinois Trial Lawyers Association President Todd A. Smith that forcefully repudiated a July 9th editorial in the newspaper. The newspaper editorial had criticized an Illinois Supreme Court decision that struck down a law capping damages to medical malpractice victims. Mr. Smith made clear that the insurance reform was the only logical remedy to the insurance problem in the state. Mr. Smith pointed out that the "crisis" of doctors fleeing the state because of skyrocketing insurance rates supposedly caused by medical malpractice verdicts does not hold up when examining actual doctor retention stats. According to the American Medical Association, the numbers of doctors in Illinois has remained virtually static since 1945. The 2005 damages cap that was temporarily in place in Illinois had no effect on doctor retention.

In addition, the example of other states makes clear that insurance reform is the true remedy for problems of increased insurance premiums. In 1976 California did not see its medical malpractice premiums decrease in 1976 when an arbitrary damages cap was issued. But the premiums did drop when specific insurance reform was put into place in 1988.

Specifically, what is needed in Illinois is insurance reform that requires these large insurance companies to provide more open information on rate-setting and payout. The effect would be increased competition and ultimately lower premiums for doctors.

Our [Chicago medical malpractice attorneys](#) at Levin & Perconti have witnessed the devastation of entire families by negligent and at times abusive conduct at the hands of substandard medical care. Imposing random and often inadequate limits on damage verdicts would only weaken protections for injured patients suffering from [doctor error](#) without any noticeable change in the real issue: skyrocketing insurance rates.

Please [Click Here](#) to read the entire letter to the editor.

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JULY 26, 2010

Jury Finds Surgeon Negligent in Medical Malpractice Case

A Rhode Island jury recently awarded slightly less than \$1 million to a woman plagued by the consequences of negligent medical treatment. The *Providence Journal* reported on the decision reached last week which returned a [medical malpractice](#) verdict against podiatric surgeon James McCormick.

The victim, Christ B. Durant, receive an operation on her big toe at Dr. McCormick's facility in June 2005. The doctor's negligence during the operation had severe consequences for Ms. Durant, resulting in intense pain and the need for additional surgery to correct the medical error.

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Besides the errors during the procedure, the medical malpractice lawsuit also challenged Dr. McCormick's failure to obtain informed consent on Ms. Durant before performing the operation. In medical situations, doctors are typically required to obtain the consent of their patients before performing certain procedures. However, to protect patients' rights, doctors are further required to ensure that the consent that obtained is "informed." **Informed consent** can only be given when the doctor properly makes the patient aware of the risks and potential consequences of any procedure. That way, the patient is able to fairly weigh her options before allowing the doctor to proceed.

The informed consent requirement is a logical, necessary step to ensure that medical patients receive the care to which they are entitled. That is especially true in surgical cases, as all patients deserve to be made aware of potential risks before allowing a doctor to perform the invasive, potentially deadly medical actions.

Our **medical malpractice lawyers** at Levin & Perconti understand the importance of proper medical care and informed medical decisions. All patients deserve that minimum level of care, and have the right to seek compensation when they receive less than that standard. Please contact our offices to learn more about your options if you or someone you know suffered similar negligent medical care.

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Posted In: [Lack of Informed Consent](#)

BIRTH INJURY

JULY 24, 2010

Jury Finds Doctor Guilty of Medical Malpractice during Childbirth

A child who suffered brain damage due to **negligent medical care** during the delivery was awarded \$510,000 by a jury this week. *Staten Island Live* reported on the jury verdict which found Staten Island hospital and the obstetrician Paul Heltzer guilty of medical malpractice.

Marquita Spicer was rushed to the hospital in early April 2006 to give birth to her first child, Xzaviar. The birth proved to be long and difficult. After breaking Ms. Spicer's water to speed up the labor, doctors also gave her pitocin, a drug used to assist natural contractions.

However, doctors kept Ms. Spicer on the drug for far too long. The result was that contractions continued more vigorously and for longer than necessary, leading to harmful stress on the baby. The stress increased pressure on his brain while lowering the blood and oxygen flow throughout his body. The stresses and flow problems ultimately led to Xzaviar suffering permanent brain damage.

A jury ultimately agreed that Ms. Spicer was on the drug for too long and that a Caesarean section should have been performed in the later stages of the pregnancy to avoid the complications. As a result, Xzaviar now has permanent lesions on his brain, a lower IQ than his similar age counterparts, and fine-motor skill deficiencies.

A permanent injury to babies caused by negligent medical care during deliveries is an all too common problem. Our **Chicago medical malpractice attorneys** at Levin & Perconti continue to fight for the rights of victims of medical errors during the birthing process. In one case, we negotiated a \$2.3 million settlement after a child suffered cerebral palsy because of a doctor's decision not to perform a timely Caesarean section when it became clear that it was necessary. If you or someone you know may have suffered similar **negligent medical care** during delivery of a child, please contact our offices to learn about the process of vindicating your rights.

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MOTOR VEHICLE

JULY 26, 2010

Two killed in Chicago-area train accident

The *Southtown Star* reported that a Chicago South Shore commuter train collided with a car on Friday just east of Gary. The **Illinois train accident** resulted in the deaths of two women in the car after it drove around a crossing arm at a rail crossing. The train collision happened when the southbound car went around an arm at the crossing on the Lake-Porter county line. Since 2007, at least five other people have died in similar **Illinois train crashes**. The local police stated that two women were killed and two people received personal injuries in the train accident in the Friday morning crash – a young child and another adult. Nobody who was riding in the eight-car train was injured in the train accident. The train originated in South Bend and was bound for Chicago.

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The injured child was airlifted to the University of Chicago Hospital following the train crash with serious internal personal injuries. The child's mother was taken to Methodist Northlake Hospital. One witness told a reporter that she was two cars behind the car involved in the train crash and said that the car went around the gates. The witness said that the gates were down at the track intersection and one train had just cleared a set of tracks when the car's driver went around the gate. The train collision pushed the vehicle several yards across the tracks.

In 2008, there were over 9000 train accidents, over 6000 **serious personal injuries** due to train accidents and over 600 train-related fatalities across the United States according to the Federal Railroad Administration of Safety Analysis. The train accident attorneys at Levin & Perconti want to remind all of our readers that it is extremely difficult for trains to come to a stop – even if they are moving slowly. Please remember to stay out of a train's way for your safety. For more information on the **commuter rail train accident**, click on the link to the *Southtown Star* article.

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JULY 24, 2010

Franklin County Truck Accident Kills Two People

A **trucking accident** occurred on I-57 in Franklin County, Illinois and resulted in the death of two people. The accident was caused by a semi-truck failing to slow down in time to avoid an accident. The accident involved seven vehicles total, four semi-trucks and three passenger vehicles. One of the people killed in the trucking accident was the semi-truck driver that initially caused the chain-reaction crash. The driver came upon the back-up caused by construction in the area, failed to appropriately gauge the situation and attempted to stop too late. The truck driver crashed into a semi in front of his truck, and then was struck by another semi-truck from behind. The semi that hit him from behind was then hit from behind. These collisions caused a fire that spread throughout the vehicles involved. According to *STL Today*, no charges have yet been filed in connection with the accident but charges are pending. To read more about this Illinois **trucking accident**, please click on this link.

Illinois accident attorneys ask truck and passenger care drivers to be extra cautious by allowing yourself time to brake when approaching slowed-down traffic. Many of the incidents we cover are chain-reaction crashes that result from one's failure to slow or stop in an appropriate amount of time. The best way to ensure that you will not collide with another vehicle is to leave an appropriate amount of space between you and the cars in front of you. This will ensure that you will have time to react to even a sudden slow-down in traffic. The general rule of thumb is for every ten miles an hour you are driving, there should be one car length between you and the car in front of you, meaning that if you are driving at 60 miles an hour on a highway, the car in front of you should be at least 6 vehicle lengths ahead of you. Please follow this simple tip to hopefully help avoid an accident and potential injuries

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