

Know Your Legal Rights

“Know Your Legal Rights”
is a free legal education series
by [Dixon Law Office](#).

To request more information,
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4 Hidden Nursing Home Dangers

At some point in our lives, most of us will spend some time in a nursing home, rehabilitation facility, or extended care facility. Whatever the name, these are the places we go when we need longer-term care. Nursing homes have a responsibility to take care of their patients, even those with complicated and difficult problems. Sadly, nursing homes can be very dangerous places in many ways most people don't expect. Following are just four hidden dangers of nursing homes.



1. Malnutrition

There are times when a loved one seems to be wasting away. Maybe they are not eating. They might be eating but not maintaining weight. While there are sometimes medical reasons why people cannot maintain weight, losing weight can be the sign of abuse. It is the job of the staff to help their patient get well. That includes making sure they are eating properly. If your loved one is not maintaining weight (sometimes call “failure to thrive”), chances are very good that the staff of the facility is not doing their job.

2. Bed Sores

Sometimes called pressure sores or pressure ulcers, bed sores happen when skin does not get the proper oxygen. The result is an open wound that can kill if left untreated.

Bed sores are almost always the result of neglect. Even with patients who cannot move themselves, the staff of the facility has the obligation to turn and position the patient so pressure sores do not occur. If your loved one has developed bed sores, accept no excuses.

3. Fall Risks

When a loved one has been injured and needs long term care, often they have difficulty walking. They might not be able to get out of bed without assistance. Or, they might walk with a walker. Whatever the problem, falling presents a serious risk of harm. Good nursing homes are aware of this and prevent falls. Good facilities protect the patient by taking extra precautions. They provide assistance whenever the patient is getting up, out of bed, or going to the bathroom. If your loved one has fallen at a nursing home, it is almost always because the nursing home staff was not doing their job.

They are paid to anticipate dangerous situations and prevent your loved one from getting hurt in the process. That might mean putting a bed alarm in so they know when your loved one gets out of bed and extra assistance while they are walking.

4. Security

You have the right to expect that your loved one is safe inside the facility. You expect that bad people won't harm them and they won't be able to walk out the door without permission. A new and disturbing trend is poor nursing home security. Many times, alarms are disabled by staff because they are bothersome. Doors are left unlocked, patients are left unattended. Injuries and death can result. If your loved one has been attacked inside the nursing home, that is a red flag to a problem. Rarely does an attack occur without a lapse in proper security. If your loved one was able to walk out, the staff did not do their job. It is not the fault of your loved one, the job of the facility is to keep them safe.

If your loved one has suffered serious injuries or even died in a nursing home, don't accept the standard “no-fault-of-ours” answer. You need an experienced lawyer to get to the truth. Contact us today to discuss your case.

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