

Who Does LTCCC Work For?

LTCCC is dedicated to improving care, quality of life and dignity for nursing home & assisted living residents. We speak out for those who have suffered neglect or abuse, and advocate for better care and accountability when people are harmed. Following are a few representative personal stories.

Please note that we have changed their names to protect their privacy.

- ◆ **Jennifer** suspected that her 89 year old grandmother was being abused after she noticed some bruises. Having been told that the bruises were a result of her banging on the handrails, Jennifer decided to verify this by placing a hidden camera in her grandmother's room. The resulting video showed evidence of ongoing physical abuse. For instance, an aide was recorded twisting her grandmother's arm and slamming her against her bed.
- ◆ **Helen** came back from visiting her family and went to the home's smoking lounge around 9pm. She was found lying on the lounge floor around 9am the next morning. According to the state citation, it's not known how long Helen, who had two above-the-knee amputations, had been lying there undiscovered. What happened to the monitoring the facility was supposed to provide? How could nobody have noticed that Helen was not in her room that evening, overnight or in the morning?
- ◆ When **George** was admitted to his nursing home, he was capable of carrying out his activities of daily living and was only beginning to show the symptoms of forgetfulness attributed to Alzheimer's Disease. However, less than a year after moving to the facility, George died from a bloodstream infection brought on by severe bedsores. His son felt certain that the two antipsychotic medications (Seroquel and Haldol) that were given to his father were responsible for his death. At trial, the nursing home's own medical expert testified that he believed that the medications (for which George had no medical need) predisposed him to skin breakage that resulted in the bedsores.
- ◆ **Anna** lived her life with dignity and was loved by her family. She was admitted to a nursing home for rehab following a fall. Three weeks into her stay, a nurse failed to perform the daily catheterization of her bladder, which was part of her care plan. As a result, Anna had to get up in the middle of the night to go to the bathroom. She was unable to make it and was found on the floor after slipping in her own urine. She complained immediately of back pain.



The gravity of this injury was not diagnosed by staff and was treated only with pain medicine. A week later she was found again on the floor. At that point she was sent for a CT scan which revealed a fractured vertebrae. She returned to the facility but no treatment of her condition was offered other than more pain medication.

Anna continued to decline in health. Pleas from her family for more medical intervention went unheeded. Finally a relative from out of town, who is also a doctor, came to see her and determined that she was paralyzed from the chest down. She was rushed to the hospital where it was determined that the damage to her spinal cord was now irreversible. She lived for an additional three years, paralyzed and confined to a wheelchair.

Our work would not be possible without the generosity of our supporters. Please join us by making a tax-deductible donation today: on our website at <http://ltccc.org/ltccc.orgsupport.shtml> or by sending a check to the "Long Term Care Community Coalition" at One Penn Plaza Suite 6252, NY, NY 10119.