

Abuse: Patient Bruised Being Restrained.

The elderly dementia patient always required two nursing home staff to assist her to use the bathroom.

One particular day the patient did not want anyone helping her. As both of the aides held her under the arms and lifted her from the toilet she became agitated and started punching one of them.

The aide grabbed her by both wrists and held her. Five hours later bruises were visible on both of the patient's wrists.

Excessive Force = Abuse

The Court of Appeals of Iowa ruled the aide committed dependent adult abuse. Even when it is necessary to handle a patient bodily to provide personal care or to restrain a patient physically to insure the patient's own safety, use of excessive force is considered abusive. [Sciacca v. Dept. of Human Services, 2007 WL 2004531 \(Iowa App., July 12, 2007\).](#)