

Elopement Alarm: \$2,200,000 Verdict Against Nursing Facility.

The elderly Alzheimer's patient was fitted with an ankle bracelet meant to trigger an alarm to alert staff if he tried to leave the facility.

The bracelet system was not working. He eloped. While wandering the neighborhood he fell and cut his leg. In his widow's lawsuit it was alleged the facility neglected to have the laceration treated, the wound became infected and the patient actually died from the infection.

The jury in the Circuit Court, Houston County, Alabama awarded \$2,200,000. The jury seems to have been particularly incensed by the inexcusable failure to provide medical care post-elopement and by evidence that the facility was only licensed as an assisted-living facility and had no business admitting a heavy-care Alzheimer's patient in the first place. **Miller v. Terrace at Grove Park, 2007 WL 2216409 (Cir. Ct. Houston Co., Alabama, February 9, 2007).**