

## Illegal Use Of Restraints: Nursing Home Liable For Patient's Death.

Because of her schizophrenia the patient had to move out of her son's home into a nursing home for twenty-four-hour professional care.

As soon as she was admitted the nursing home staff began use of restraints by strapping the patient to her bed without a physician's order. According to the Court of Appeal of Louisiana, the patient was restrained solely for the convenience of the nursing home's staff.

The treating physician later did write an order for the restraint, with the patient to be checked q 30 minutes and released for at least 10 minutes q 2 hours.

According to the court, the nursing home staff simply ignored the physician's orders and continued to strap the patient to her bed for their own convenience rather than using the restraints for the patient's care and benefit as prescribed by the physician.

Eighteen months into her stay at the nursing home the patient died of asphyxiation, hanged upside down from her restraints on the side of her bed. The court approved a substantial monetary judgment for the family. **Wilcox v. Gamble Guest Care Corp.**, \_\_ So. 2d \_\_, 2006 WL 932027 (La. App., April 12, 2006).