

## Abuse: Charges Against Aide Overturned.

The Court of Appeals of Minnesota threw out charges of patient abuse filed against an aide in a nursing home and ordered her name removed from the state registry of persons barred from patient-care work because of abuse.

The nursing director's sloppy initial investigation never pinned down the exact time or even the date when the alleged abuse occurred. Thus it was not possible to correlate who was on duty, in what part of the facility, who was assigned to work with whom, who was on break when, etc.

The patient, who suffered from confusion, was really not able to distinguish which of two similar-looking caregivers who usually worked with her was the one she wanted to accuse of handing her roughly in a dependent transfer.

The patient was on Trental, a blood-thinner which made her susceptible to bruising. The bruises on her wrists did not necessarily prove that anyone handled her roughly or abusively. **In re Abuse Finding, 2008 WL 125238 (Minn. App., January 15, 2008).**