

Abuse Registry: Length Of Prior Service Is Irrelevant.

A certified nursing assistant slapped an Alzheimer's patient after the patient slapped her. The incident was witnessed by the patient's daughter.

Although the aide had an otherwise unblemished record of more than twenty years service at the facility, she was asked to resign and did resign.

She was also reported to the state department of health, her certificate was revoked and her name was placed in the state's Federally-mandated registry of persons who had abused a vulnerable individual while working as a caregiver.

The New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division, ruled that even one isolated episode of abuse is sufficient to require a caregiver to be reported by his or her employer and listed by the department in the abuse registry. Prior length of otherwise satisfactory service is not relevant. King v. Dept. of Health and Senior Services, ___ A. 2d ___, 2007 WL 763273 (N.J. App., March 15, 2007).