



ELOPEMENT & WANDERING

Nursing Home Abuse & Neglect

WHAT IS ELOPEMENT

ELOPEMENT IS A FORM OF UNSUPERVISED WANDERING THAT LEADS TO THE RESIDENT LEAVING THE FACILITY. THIS ENDANGERS THE RESIDENT IMMEDIATELY AND CAN RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY, OR EVEN DEATH.

WANDERING VS. ELOPEMENT

WHILE ELOPEMENT RESULTS IN A PATIENT LEAVING THE FACILITY ALTOGETHER, WANDERING IS WHEN A RESIDENT LEAVES A SAFE AREA WITHIN THE NURSING HOME OR LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY. THIS COULD MEAN THEY WALK EXCESSIVELY OR WANDER AWAY FROM THEIR ROOM OR A SPECIFIC FLOOR.

WHY DO RESIDENTS WANDER?

UNFAMILIAR ENVIRONMENT
CHANGES IN MEDICATION
BEING OVERLY MEDICATED
UNMET PHYSICAL NEEDS

UNMET EMOTIONAL NEEDS
CONFUSION
DEMENTIA
ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

SICKNESS
TO GO HOME
TO VISIT SOMEONE
SLEEP DISORDERS

TYPES OF WANDERING

AIMLESS WANDERING IS WHEN THERE'S NO PURPOSE BEHIND IT. THIS COULD BE DUE TO BOREDOM, STRESS, BEING UNCOMFORTABLE, OR CONFUSION

AGITATED WANDERING SOME RESIDENTS MAY WANDER BECAUSE THEY ARE AGITATED, ANXIOUS, OR UNDER STRESS.

RESPONSIVE WANDERING RESIDENTS MAY BE RESPONDING TO A SPECIFIC NEED, SUCH AS SEARCHING FOR A RESTROOM OR FOOD. RESPONSIVE OR PURPOSEFUL WONDERING HAS INTENT BEHIND IT. A RESIDENT MAY BE TRYING TO FIND A NURSE OR RETURN HOME TO THEIR LOVED ONES.



DANGERS OF ELOPEMENT

- **TRAFFIC**
- **EXTREME WEATHER**
- **A LACK OF MEDICATION**
- **DEHYDRATION**
- **MALNUTRITION**
- **FALLING**
- **BROKEN BONES**
- **DROWNING**
- **INJURY**
- **DEATH**

ELOPEMENT PREVENTION

**NURSING HOMES SHOULD FOLLOW ALL PROPER REGULATIONS,
INCLUDING THE NURSING HOME REFORM ACT GUIDELINES.**

DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE CARE PLAN FOR EACH RESIDENT

ENSURE THAT RESIDENTS RECEIVE ADEQUATE SUPERVISION

PROMOTE EACH RESIDENT'S QUALITY OF LIFE

MAINTAIN DIGNITY AND RESPECT OF EACH RESIDENT

USE ITS RESOURCES EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY

STATISTICS

PRO PUBLICA GATHERED DATA OF 118,000 DEFICIENCIES FOUND DURING GOVERNMENT INSPECTIONS AT 14,565 NURSING HOMES NATIONWIDE. IN GEORGIA, ACCORDING TO THE DATA, THERE WERE 51 ELOPEMENT DEFICIENCIES IN GEORGIA NURSING HOMES IN 2017. THE NUMBER AND SEVERITY OF DEFICIENCIES SHOWN RELATE ONLY TO THE SEARCH TERMS, NOT NECESSARILY ALL DEFICIENCIES AGAINST THE HOME.

Our experienced nursing home abuse attorneys at Geiger Legal Group, LLC understand how overwhelming it is to find out your loved one isn't receiving the care they need or deserve. That's why we help victims sue a nursing home for negligence. We represent victims of nursing home abuse and neglect and hold nursing homes accountable because we believe all long-term care residents deserve to live in a safe environment. Additionally, we understand that families deserve to have the peace of mind that their loved one receives the best care possible, especially when paying for quality care.

