

#2712

From: SHERRY WEERSING [smweers@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2008 9:31 PM Rec'd IRRC
To: IRRC

Dear Ms. Weidman,

I am writing to voice my concern about the laxity in the new assisted living regulations being proposed for the state of Pa. I'm an RN and have had a personal experience with dealing with an assisted living facility and can tell you that they can be very dangerous places for our elderly to live.

My mother has Alzheimer's disease and was moved into Sunrise assisted living in Westtown in 2001. While she initially did not need much physical care it soon became evident that they were not equipped to handle the mental changes that typically come along with this horrible disease.

This company in particular promotes themselves as one of the leaders in Az care. My mother was found out on Rt 202 several times, not prevented going out but found out there.

There were also many medication errors made that continued to be made even after I brought them to the directors and RN's attention. These are minimally trained med givers with no idea of the implications of medication interactions. One of the things they were doing was crushing long acting antidepressants which in turn was causing my mother to have seizures. During these seizures the staff then tried to insert tongue blades in her mouth (this was stopped years ago) and also tried to give her medications by mouth and would have had I not been there.

They promise people that they can handle the care of these residents until end of life but cannot do so safely. I felt horrible for the residents who did not have knowledgeable family members looking out for them.

The staffing levels are too low for the intensity that AZ patients in particular need. They would normally be in nursing homes if not in these homes and even there the staffing is too low.

Please, I beg of you, make these regulation more intense. The only reason the assisted living facilities don't want them is that it means less profit. Are we going to allow that to stop us from making the care of our elderly our top

priority?

Sherry Weersing