


California Nursing Home Accused of Denying Access to Man's Wife

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Published: March 29th, 2010 • [No Comments](#)

A California nursing home is being sued by a man who says that management tried to keep him from seeing his wife after he complained about signs of [nursing home neglect](#).

Stewart Smith filed a lawsuit against Twin Oaks Health and Rehabilitation Center in Chico, California and its management company, Evergreen Healthcare, in January. His lawsuit is one of six currently filed against the company at three different facilities. Three of the lawsuits are against Twin Oaks, according to a story by the [Chico Enterprise Record](#).

Smith's lawsuit alleges that his wife, Sharon, was not receiving adequate care from the nursing home. Smith claims he began working with the family of another resident in documenting problems at the facility. However, when he presented a list of complaints in December 2007 that needed to be addressed and told the home he planned to present them to the state, the nursing home accused him of abusing his wife, refused to acknowledge that he had power of attorney and refused to allow him to visit her in her room.

When his wife wrote a new power of attorney, the lawsuit claims that the nursing home declared her mentally incompetent. The facility refused to acknowledge Smith's power of attorney until well into 2009. She died on November 13, 2009.

Other outstanding lawsuits against Twin Oaks and Evergreen include a claim by Karem Borm, a registered nurse who says she was wrongfully fired after complaining that a dying resident was being denied pain medication. In addition, a [nursing home fall and fracture lawsuit](#) was filed by John Schroer, claims that the 89-year-old man suffered a nursing home fall, receiving multiple ankle fractures. Schroer's lawsuit claims he received no medical treatment for 24 hours.