

## Nursing Home Residents File Class-Action Lawsuit

By Kristian Foden-Vencil

PORTLAND, OR 2007-03-29 Elderly residents of an assisted living home in Sheridan have filed a lawsuit against the owners -- saying they're charging for services that aren't provided. Kristian Foden-Vencil reports.

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The 80-year-old residents are threatening a class-action lawsuit against Sunwest Management. It owns 50 homes in Oregon and such a lawsuit could involve thousands of plaintiffs.

The residents' attorney, Kathryn Stebner, says Sunwest is charging for services it doesn't provide.

Kathryn Stebner: "What happens is you go into one of these facilities and they say here: you will need 'x' level of care and it will cost 'y' amount of money. Some times passes and they'll say, you know what, you need a little more care and it's going to cost you more. But what the complaint alleges is that no more staff is added. So what is it that you're paying for?"

Sunwest has issued a statement calling the lawsuit "frivolous and inaccurate." The company says it expects the suit to prove the charges are unfounded.

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