



GOURLEY  
REHKEMPER  
LINDHOLM, PLC

**Re: Press Release  
Nickel et. al. vs. Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society**

FEDERAL JURY FINDS LOCAL NURSING HOME RESPONSIBLE FOR  
DEATH OF PATIENT.

To All Those Concerned:

After more than a week-long trial, on November 20, 2018, a federal jury for the Southern District of Iowa held local nursing home, Good Samaritan Society of Ottumwa, responsible for the wrongful death of Ottumwa native Shirley Nickel.

The lawsuit brought by Mrs. Nickel's Estate alleged that Good Samaritan was responsible for the death of Mrs. Nickel after she was dropped by Good Samaritan staff while being transported in a Hoyer Lift. Good Samaritan contended Mrs. Nickel was responsible for her own death. After deliberating, the Jury agreed and awarded a total of \$500,000 in damages against Good Samaritan.

The family's attorneys, Cory Gourley and Alex Wonio, released the following statement:

The Nickel family is extremely grateful to the jury in this case for vindicating their mother's untimely death. Most important, the family was especially grateful for the jury's denouncement of Good Samaritan's claim that Mrs. Nickel was responsible for her own death and their treatment of Mrs. Nickel's family after her death.

The Nickel family is hopeful that the Jury's verdict will result in positive changes focused on protection of residents and will further result in greater transparency in facility-related operations and incidents, especially those resulting in injury or death. The ultimate hope is that the Jury's verdict will positively impact the safety and well-being of all Good Samaritan residents and patients going forward.

Sincerely,

GOURLEY, REHKEMPER & LINDHOLM, PLC

*/s/ Cory F. Gourley*

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