

## NEW VERMONT LAWS ON ABUSE, NEGLECT AND EXPLOITATION OF VULNERABLE ADULTS RESIDING IN LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES

Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin recently signed Vermont House Bill 413 into law. The new law adds a new section to Vermont's laws on abuse, neglect and exploitation of vulnerable adults residing in long term care facilities. The new section allows Vermont's Attorney General the right to pursue a civil action against individuals, nursing homes and other long term care facilities, who, with reckless disregard or with knowledge violate Vermont's laws abuse, neglect and exploitation of vulnerable adults. The new law provides that merely having a report filed with the Vermont Attorney General of abuse, neglect, exploitation or suspicion of those acts, is not be sufficient to demonstrate that a person or caregiver acted with reckless disregarded. Fines start at \$5,000 if no bodily injury results and can rise to \$50,000 if death occurs. The new law is effective July 1, 2012.

Vermont's new law can be found [here](#).

Should you have any questions, please contact:

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