

# Watching for Abuse in Nursing Home Settings

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Sometimes, the signs of nursing home abuse are easy to spot. In other cases, they're more subtle. Some types of abuse are very targeted, as well, so there may not be an overall pattern of abuse at a facility even though one resident is particularly abused. Here are some things about the staff that you should watch out for.

## **1: Short Tempers**

Listen to how the staff treats the residents around you. Of course, they'll be good to your relative while you're there. Even if they are abusive to your relative, they're not going to let themselves get caught. If you hear nurse's aides and nurses being generally abusive and disrespectful toward the residents, it's not a good sign.

## **2: Over Medication**

Some nursing homes just happen to have a lot of patients with dementia and similar conditions from time to time. In other cases, however, the patients are simply overmedicated. This is a tactic that abusers use to make their residents easier to care for. They give them so much medication that they're not in their right minds and they're very docile.

## **3: Under Medication**

If your relative is missing medications on a regular basis, it's not necessarily a sign of abuse. It is a sign of sloppiness, however, and a sloppy facility is more likely to be an abusive facility. Professional nursing homes are very efficient and are very good at what they do. Providing such a level of treatment, however, requires that the facility hires people of adequate skill.

## **4: Unqualified Staff**

This is a very bad sign. People who work in nursing homes have to attend to a variety of different tasks. They have to help people into and out of bed. They have to clean people. They have to give people medications, make sure they're getting the right food and enough of it and perform many other tasks. This is not a job that anyone can walk in off of the street and do right. Watch the staff. Good nursing home workers are oftentimes pressed for time and not prone to stop and chat much. They are, however, obviously competent at what they're doing. If the staff seems frustrated, overwhelmed, short tempered and undertrained, the facility should be watched closely.

A [nursing home mistreatment](#) case is sometimes an option if you've been wronged by a bad facility. [Personal injury information](#) that pertains to nursing home can be obtained from a qualified attorney.

