

Helpful tips and safety information when seeking a nursing home for a loved one in need of care.



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Welcome to the Leone Law, LLC quarterly e-newsletter. Our firm provides legal solutions for individuals and businesses throughout Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The practice focuses on dispute resolution in civil matters.

We represent people who have suffered serious personal injuries. Increasingly, individuals and families who have been victims of nursing home abuse and neglect are asking for our help. Whether it be a car, truck, or motorcycle crash, a doctor's or hospital's negligence, or in any other case where you or a loved one has been harmed through no fault of your own, Leone Law, LLC can help.

In each quarterly newsletter, we will address a legal topic and providing important safety information for consumers. If you would like to submit a topic for a future newsletter, please [contact us](#) with your request.

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## **NURSING HOME SELECTION AND SAFETY**

This quarter, we look at choosing a nursing home for a loved one and some things to consider when it comes to nursing home safety. Nursing homes should be a place for the aging population to live the remainder of their lives or rehabilitate from illness or injury with as much comfort and care as possible. A good nursing home makes its residents feel safe, ensures a healthy diet and lifestyle, and provides treatment customized to each resident's medical conditions and situation. Throughout Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and across the country, these facilities should provide a better quality of life while bringing happiness and comfort to the elderly, one of our most vulnerable populations.

## **CHOOSING A NURSING HOME**

As a caregiver or loved one, making the choice to put someone you care about into a nursing home can be emotionally draining. Admitting they need more help than you or other family can provide is not easy to come to terms with, but getting the right care for your loved one is the priority. Unfortunately, families often have very little time to select a nursing home.

While this is a difficult decision, there are public resources available to investigate long term care facilities. Below is a list of important resources that can help when considering a nursing home for your loved one:

- [Medicare.gov's guide to choosing a nursing home and nursing home checklist](#)
- National Institute on Aging – [Nursing Homes: Making the Right Choice](#)
- AARP – [Choosing the Right Nursing Home](#)
- [Families for Better Care Nursing Home Report Cards](#)
- [Memberofthefamily.net](#) – Nursing home ratings

These research tools are a good starting point to finding a safe nursing home. From here, make a list of nursing homes. In compiling your list be particularly wary about for-profit nursing homes and

nursing homes with a poor rating on Medicare.gov. With a list of nursing homes in hand, personally visit each home. In your visit, look carefully at the facility environment. Look for visible staff. If there appears to be not enough staff when you visit, there is a good chance the facility understaffed. Once you have found a facility, read the admission paperwork carefully. Look for a forced arbitration agreement. If asked to one, do not sign one. Forced arbitration provisions give away your loved one's legal rights to access the civil justice system if the facility abuses or neglects your loved one. Nursing home admission cannot be conditioning on signing this provision.

Unfortunately, nursing home neglect and abuse happens all across America, and the physical and emotional toll can be devastating. Some nursing homes do not provide the proper care, and it is often difficult to see these problems before moving into a long-term care facility. It is important to hold nursing homes responsible to keep residents safe. While the harm to a senior often cannot be fixed, legal action could prevent it from continuing to happen and protect others from future harm.

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## **ABOUT ANTHONY LEONE**

Anthony R. Leone, II, Esq. is an experienced trial lawyer who practices law in both Rhode Island and Massachusetts. He handles many different litigation areas that include complex personal injury, such as nursing home abuse and neglect cases. Anthony's experience both inside and outside of the Courtroom give him the skills to handle your case.



Anthony's dedication to protecting clients has led to extensive involvement with the Rhode Island Association for Justice (RIAJ) and the American Association for Justice (AAJ). Anthony is a former President of RIAJ. He has served as Rhode Island state delegate to AAJ. Presently, he is one of Rhode Island's designees to AAJ's Board of Governors, serves as President of AAJ's Council of Presidents, and is a member of AAJ's Executive Committee for 2015-2016. Anthony is also a member of AAJ's Nursing Home Litigation Group. This experience gives Anthony the resources to understand the unique aspects of your case.

Anthony is committed to serving his clients and his community. He served on the Board of Directors of First Swing Rhode Island, which assisted handicapped and disabled persons play golf. Anthony also led RIAJ as the first trial lawyer's association in the country to join with [EndDD.org](http://EndDD.org) and the [Casey Feldman Foundation](http://CaseyFeldmanFoundation.org) to teach high school students about the dangers of distracted driving.

Additionally, Anthony has been a leader on the Board of Directors of the Roger Williams Law Alumni Association, serving as its Vice President and Secretary, as well as a member of several committees. For 15 years, he co-chaired its annual golf tournament to raise funds for the Roger Williams Law Alumni Scholarship Fund. He has been an active member of the Roger Williams American Inn of Court, an organization dedicated to ethics, professionalism, and mentoring in the practice of law. Anthony is also a frequent adjunct lecturer at local colleges in their respective legal studies departments, and is an adjunct instructor at Roger Williams Law School.

When not practicing law, Anthony enjoys his time with his family and friends. He loves music, particularly jazz, but his passion is playing golf.

## **Questions? Comments?**

If you have questions about the treatment of a loved one in a nursing home or would like more information about the nursing home selection process, please feel free to contact us or visit [our website](#).

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