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## Davis nursing home named in lawsuit

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Twenty-two Horizon West nursing homes in California, including one in Davis, have been named in a class action lawsuit filed Wednesday in Sacramento Superior Court, alleging unlawful business practices, unfair and fraudulent businesses practices, violations of health and safety codes and violations of the Consumer Legal Remedies Act.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of Hazel Adams through her attorney Judy Wilken and "thousands of other citizens" who reside in a Horizon West skilled nursing facility.

Among those listed in the suit, according to Geri Wilson of the Jonathan Group, is the Sierra Health Care Center in Davis. According to information contained in the suit, Sierra Health averaged 2.55 nursing hours per patient in 2004 compared to the state's mandate of 3.2 nursing hours per patient a day.

Other allegations were that Sierra Health didn't provide the 2,060 hours a year of legally required nursing care to residents, received 25 notices of deficiencies, "making the facility 220 percent over the statewide average of 11 notices per year" and received 15 notices of deficiencies in 2004, making it 130 percent over the state average of 11 notices a year.

The allegations of the complaint spans from June 10, 2002 to June 10, 2006, which alleges Horizon West, Horizon West Healthcare and Horizon West Healthcare of California, and 26 of the skilled nursing facilities it owns, operates, or manages in the state are knowingly not providing the minimum level of direct patient care mandated by the state and federal regulations.

"Inadequate staffing leads to elder abuse. It is that plain and that simple," said the plaintiff's Long Beach attorney Stephen Garcia of Garcia Law. "Take, for example, the Horizon West facility Sierra Health Care Center in Davis. Documents filed, under penalty of perjury, by the Horizon West defendants with the state reflect that this facility averaged 2.55 nursing hours per patient per day during 2004. If these numbers are accurate, that would mean that Sierra Health Care Center failed to provide approximately 26,235 hours of legally required nursing care to its residents. If true, the Horizon companies billed and were paid for services they did not perform."