



## **AP Wire - Oregon**

### **Assisted living residents sue Oregon management company**

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Associated Press

Residents of an assisted living facility have sued the management company, charging that its admissions agreement misled residents about the number of staff members available to provide daily care, such as help with medication.

Two residents of a Sheridan facility operated by Sunwest Management of Salem are named as representative plaintiffs in the suit that seeks class-action status: Cathleen Naylor, 81, and Gwen Olmstead, 80.

Fifty residential facilities in Oregon operated by Sunwest are named in a lawsuit filed in Multnomah County Circuit Court.

Sunwest understaffed assisted living homes, the lawsuit says, and "made a considered decision to promote profit at the expense of their contractual and legal obligations to residents."

In a statement, Sunwest called the lawsuit frivolous and inaccurate.

"We look forward to addressing the issues in the lawsuit via the judicial process where we are confident that the true facts of the situation will come to light," it said.

In January, Sunwest settled three lawsuits that accused it of ignoring staffing problems at its Meadowlark Assisted Living facility in Yreka, Calif. California attorney Kathryn Stebner, who filed the Oregon lawsuit, represented families in the Meadowlark cases.

Sunwest manages retirement, assisted living and memory-care communities, with about 180 facilities nationwide.