

February 16, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

As someone who has had the opportunity to have utilized the services of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, I am concerned that any budget cuts will have a negative impact on the people of Connecticut who are most vulnerable: the elderly and the infirmed who have no one else to advocate for their needs.

For two years, my mother was a resident of Buckingham Estates in Glastonbury, an assisted living facility for people with dementia. Our family witnessed this excellent facility absolutely nosedive downhill when the new owners imposed their new management team upon us. The downturn was so dramatic that more than half of the resident families (approximately 30 out of 52) formed their own advocacy group to attempt to negotiate with the owners. After many many complaints to the Health Dept. and many false promises....not to mention continued life threatening cuts to services, we reached out to Nancy Shaffer of the Ombudsman Program who helped guide us as to our rights as well as what our options were for successful resolution. After a meeting with legislators, agency commission staff, the owners, Nancy Shaffer of the Ombudsmen Program and members of our family group, changes were implemented and original onsite management was rehired. Buckingham once again enjoys the reputation of a well run and caring facility. The continued success of this facility as well as the high level of service of many others that are under her jurisdiction are the direct result of this office and its staff.

We at Buckingham were fairly unique in having our own advocacy group. Most resident families and certainly many many residents and patients either cannot defend themselves or simply do not know whom to go to for help. This program is vital to the well being of the people who can least care for themselves.

I ask that you not make cuts to The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program that would compromise their effectiveness.

Sincerely,

Sandi Garfield

The Bristol Press (bristolpress.com), Serving Bristol, CT

News

Farmington nursing home worker accused of stealing credit card

Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:36 PM EST

By LISA BACKUS
Staff writer

FARMINGTON — A Bloomfield woman was arrested on larceny and credit card theft charges Tuesday after police said she stole a credit card from an 80-year-old woman while on the job at a local nursing home.

Sherena Lumpkins, 32, is accused of using the woman's card nine times at a gas station in Bloomfield, racking up \$382 in charges. "The fraudulent activity was discovered by a relative," Lt. William Tyler said.

Lumpkins worked at the nursing home where the 80-year-old victim lives, Tyler said. The fraudulent charges occurred from May 13 to June 3 and were reported to police June 6.

Lumpkins was charged with fifth-degree larceny, credit card theft, illegal use of a credit card, receiving goods obtained illegally and third-degree identity theft. She was released on \$5,000 nonsurety bond and scheduled to appear Tuesday in Hartford Superior Court.

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