

# WSVN Fox News Miami

Friday, December 15, 2007  
6 p.m. broadcast

## Assisted living facility may face penalties after complaints

SOUTH MIAMI-DADE, Fla. (WSVN) -- An assisted living facility may face penalties after accusations of supply shortage and rape.

Brian Lee leads Florida's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, which acts as an advocate for residents of assisted living facilities. He said, the Munne Center Assisted Living Facility in Southwest Miami-Dade is under observation after state experts called its conditions one of the worst in Florida.

"This facility has been on our radar screen for a little over the past year and a half," said Lee.

On a written complaint to the state, it read that there is little food in the facility for residents to eat, poor food quality, as well as verbal and physical abuse. Advocates also discovered the facility ran out of toilet paper for days and once a week at a time. Cleaning was done with brown industrial paper towels.

"To me it is unconscionable that this should be happening to residents," said Lee. "That's not only a health care issue but a dignity issue for the residents as well. It's just a very sad statement to the level of care this facility is providing."

But among all of the concerns, one of the most disturbing had to be the accusation that an Alzheimer's patient was the victim of rape.

"There was not very much supervision of the residents at that time, and it could have been prevented," said Lee.

Seven News obtained a copy of a complaint Lee filed with the state about his other findings. In parts, it read: "Residents in the Alzheimer's and Dementia unit are locked in their rooms." That is a concerning issue if there is a fire and traumatizing to residents. The complaint also indicated the owner has yelled profanities at residents.

"I just got done talking to a lady who was crying to me just a moment ago begging for help from us, from anyone who can help the residents here," said Lee. "She just said the place is terrible, that the intimidation factor that's going on here by the administration here is horrible for her and the other residents in the building."

Owners and administrators refused to comment on these issues.

The Long Term Care Bureau Chief Molly McKinstry says they will continue to monitor the Munne Center, and if problems continue to escalate, they will take additional action.

The Munne Center, which houses more than 100 people, received 114 complaints last year alone, and 62 violations by the Agency for Health Care Administration, which were corrected. The State Agency for Health Care Administration will determine penalties, if any, for the Munne Center.