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Mayor Randy George
North Haledon Borough
103 Overlook Avenue
North Haledon, NJ 07508

Suspected Elder Abuse? Our Safe Care Cam Program Can Help

Dear Mayor George:

One of my priorities as Attorney General has been to protect our most vulnerable citizens from abuse and neglect, including New Jersey's senior and disabled populations. In our state and nationwide, the growth of the senior population has led to a significant increase in the demand for both in-home and institutional care. Although the vast majority of caregivers serve their senior patients well, others violate the trust of their patients and subject them to abuse or neglect. In fact, there have been a number of recent cases within our office involving caregivers caught on hidden cameras physically or verbally abusing their elderly or disabled patients.

In order to detect (and deter) such mistreatment and/or theft, the Office of the Attorney General and the Division of Consumer Affairs created the "Safe Care Cam" program to protect elderly and disabled New Jerseyans. The program is simple: If a caregiver is suspected of engaging in misconduct, we will loan a hidden micro-camera, free of charge, for the purpose of assuring that the caregiver is acting appropriately when he or she thinks no one is watching. The footage captured by the hidden device will either provide families with peace of mind that their loved ones are being cared for properly, or provide proof that immediate protective intervention or criminal prosecution is necessary. Originally launched exclusively for use in private homes, in April 2017, the Safe Care Cam program was expanded to allow families to monitor the treatment of patients residing in nursing homes and other institutional care facilities under certain conditions.

By ensuring that all New Jersey residents, regardless of their income, have access to the state-of-the-art technology needed to watch over their loved ones, the Safe Care Cam program is helping to ensure the safety of elderly and disabled patients wherever they are receiving residential care. As an elected leader who represents members of the elderly community, I encourage you to advise your constituents of this program in the event they raise concerns about a caregiver. Thank you very much for your assistance with this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Christopher S. Porrino
Attorney General

SAFE CARE CAM

PROTECT YOUR LOVED ONES RECEIVING CARE

Safe Care Cam is a new program designed for those New Jersey residents who suspect their loved ones are being abused, mistreated, or neglected by a health care provider. The program allows access to micro-surveillance cameras that can be easily hidden to detect abuse and protect patients. The **Safe Care Cam** program makes these cameras available for free for 30-days loans. To participate on the program, please follow these simple steps:

1. Call the N.J. Division of Consumer Affairs at **973-504-6375** or **800-242-5846**. Follow voice prompts to a **Safe Care Cam** program voicemail box and leave a message with your name and contact information.
2. A staff member will contact anyone who leaves a voicemail with further information about the program and to schedule an appointment to pick-up a camera.

At this appointment, the program participant will be required to do the following:

- Provide a copy of a driver's license or other official identification.
- Provide contact information, including phone number, cell phone number, and addresses.
- Sign a program contract, which sets forth rules and obligations under the **Safe Care Cam** program.

Also at this time, a staff member will provide the program participant with a camera and a memory card. A brief training will be provided on how the camera works and how the footage can be recorded, viewed, and saved.

Upon request, the camera and memory card loan can be extended for more than 30 days.

Made possible by the following:
NJ Office of the Attorney General
Division of Consumer Affairs



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