

# Long-Term Care Survey Alert

## Are Cameras a Good Idea in Your Facility?

Weigh these video surveillance pros and cons.

Consider these pros and cons as you grapple with the problem of hidden cameras and other video monitoring in your nursing home:

|   | <b>Possible Effect □ Pro</b>  | <b>Possible Effect □ Con</b>  |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Complaints</b>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substantiation for complaints</li> <li>• Protection against false allegations</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Video image may not tell the whole story</li> </ul>                    |
| <b>Litigation</b>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence in civil or criminal proceeding in bona fide cases of abuse</li> <li>• Evidence may vindicate caregiver in false allegation case               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discourage false allegations</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential for increased lawsuits</li> </ul>                            |
| <b>Family perspective</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families are be able to monitor Possible invasion of resident's privacy their loved one's care</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Staff perspective</b><br>surveillance, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discourage potential abusers</li> <li>• Attention to deterring abuse may appeal to compassionate caregivers</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulty recruiting because of feeling of "being watched"</li> </ul> |

**Sources:** Attorneys **Joseph Bianculli** and **Barbara Stegun Phair**.