

Long-Term Care Survey Alert

Behavioral Management: Documentation Is Key If Staff Engage In A Resident 'Take Down'

Be prepared to explain your rationale and training for using this last-resort technique.

Your best protection in the rare case that a "take down" does go down: Document, document, document.

Describe the staff's rationale for choosing that particular approach in managing physical aggression, advises **Joanne Lax**, an attorney in Bloomfield Hills, MI. And be prepared to demonstrate that the staff involved were trained in proper physical management techniques -- and found those techniques to be needed, Lax adds.

Important: Staff should receive specific training in how to use hands-on techniques for frail elders as an absolute last resort for managing physical aggression posing imminent danger. And they should have and practice a plan for using this last-resort intervention as safely as possible, including in instances where they have to break up a physical altercation between residents.