

### Reducing the Risk of Harm

At St. Barnabas Senior Living Services there are known statements made by social workers that reported residents threatening some of their employees. No physical violence or signs of injury have been stated. Most of the confrontations seem to take place because of the medication that these clients are taking or from the residents being baffled by their illness, such as dementia. It has been evident that in most cases that the residents are just uncomfortable with something such as their catheter causing them discomfort. There are not any precautions that one could take to prevent these situations because they are working with elderly individuals, which this type of behavior is bound to happen. It is required that employees of St. Barnabas participate in training which teaches the fundamentals in dealing with clients like the ones previously stated above. There are certain guidelines and procedures, given before employment, which the St. Barnabas staffs are required to know and follow. Unlike social work in a prison facility, St. Barnabas is a nursing home for the elderly, there is no need for defensive devices because they are more than likely unable to physically cause any harm.

The high risk clients at St Barnabas include residents with infections. In fact, before a nurse or worker can enter a client of this stature's room, they have a table outside and must adhere to all of the necessary precautions. These precautions include washing their hands before and after they leave the room, wearing gloves, face mask, and etcetera. Locations with infection signs are located above the residents' door and are considered to

be dangerous if one were to enter without the proper safety material. There is no neighborhood risk surrounding this agency. St. Barnabas provides services in their social work department to any employees that may have concerns or issues regarding them feeling threatened. The workers as a whole include the employee's support systems, counselor, as well as their self debriefing buddy. St. Barnabas includes an incident reporting system and encourages the staff to complete one immediately after the incident occurs. There currently is not a written agreement with the police entailing when they are to be called for assistance. I personally have not been threatened or put in a frightening situation by any of the residents at St. Barnabas. As an intern, I will take the same precautions as I have stated that the employees at my agency are to take in making sure that I will be safe at all times.