

Taylor & Ring Files Lawsuit Against Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital for Sexual Battery, Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress, Elder Abuse and Negligence

[Taylor & Ring](#), a Los Angeles-based trial law firm, filed a lawsuit against Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital (Cottage) and nursing assistant Pedro Perez Hernandez on behalf of 69-year-old Manuel T. and his wife Michelle T. alleging sexual battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress, elder abuse and negligence. The lawsuit alleges that Mr. Hernandez inappropriately touched Manuel and another patient's private parts and that Cottage officials purposefully concealed the information.

"This is the third individual who has been sexually victimized at Cottage," says attorney [Louanne Masry](#). "They have a duty and obligation to ensure their patients are safe and well cared for, and this is an outrageous disregard for patient care. Cottage administration knew what was going on and did nothing to help Manuel, nor any of their other patients."

Manuel was a resident at Cottage from 2012 to approximately May 2014, but it wasn't until late 2014 that his wife was notified of the abuse. In addition, this was the first time Michelle learned that criminal charges were brought against Mr. Hernandez for the assault and abuse of her husband.

Furthermore, in 2010, another patient was sexually abused by Mr. Hernandez. The facility was cited by the California Department of Public Health stating, "the facility failed to protect the patient from unwanted touching of the genital area by a certified nursing assistant." This patient brought a lawsuit against Cottage in 2011 and settled confidentially.

The complaint seeks punitive damages.