



---

Portfolio Media, Inc. | 111 West 19th Street, 5th floor | New York, NY 10011 | [www.law360.com](http://www.law360.com)  
Phone: +1 646 783 7100 | Fax: +1 646 783 7161 | [customerservice@law360.com](mailto:customerservice@law360.com)

---

## Faulty Sprinklers Let Pa. Nursing Home Burn Down, Suit Says

By Matt Fair

Law360 (June 14, 2018, 6:13 PM EDT) -- A suburban Philadelphia senior living facility is facing what is at least the second lawsuit in state court over a massive fire that broke out in November that killed four residents.

The family of Thomas and Delores Parker are looking to hold Barclay Friends liable for what they said was lax enforcement of a no-smoking policy that led to the fire, as well as an inadequate evacuation plan and a sprinkler system that failed to activate as the blaze tore through the facility.

"Thomas and Delores Parker were not evacuated from the building and were unable to escape the blaze, thereby suffering terrifying, gruesome, agonizing and lonely deaths," the complaint said. "Four days later, their remains were excavated from the rubble inside the charred shell of their former home."

The lawsuit comes months after the family of Theresa Malloy **filed suit** in Philadelphia seeking damages from Barclay Friends and several co-defendants over the 85-year-old woman's death in the fire.

According to the complaint, the fire broke out on a back patio of the so-called Woolman Annex at Barclay Friends before traveling up the building's vinyl siding and into an attic, where it quickly spread.

But the complaint said that a valve that controlled the flow of water into the building's sprinkler system was shut off the night of the fire, meaning that the system failed to activate.

In addition to Barclay Friends, the complaint seeks to hold the company that maintained the building's sprinkler system, SimplexGrinnell LP, liable for the deaths of the Parkers.

The Parker estate further states that the building did not have a sufficient amount of sprinklers to adequately suppress a fire even if the system had been operating as intended.

The complaint also names an Aqua America Inc. subsidiary, which serves as the local water utility, for allegedly failing to provide adequate supplies of water to feed hoses that firefighters used in battling the fire.

Spokespeople for SimplexGrinnell and Aqua America declined to comment when contacted on Thursday, while a representative for Barclay Friends did not immediately return a message from a reporter.

The Parker estate is represented by James McEldrew, Daniel Purtell and Ian Bryson of McEldrew Young.

Counsel information for the defendants was not immediately available.

The case is McGill etc. v. Barclay Friends et al., case number 180601317, in the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.

--Editing by Adam LoBelia.

---

All Content © 2003-2018, Portfolio Media, Inc.