



**SUBJECT: Fall from grace**

**RECIPIENTS: All Council Directorates**

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## Care home fine: 60k fine after resident dies in stairway fall

A family-run care home has been sentenced after a resident fell down a set of stairs and later died as a result.

A resident from a Care Home went missing the Sheriff Court was told. After an extensive search of the premises, staff located the resistant at the bottom of a set of stairs in the home's boiler room. The resident had sustained a head injury in the fall and died as a result of the injuries.

The HSE's investigation found that the boiler room door had a lock, allowing staff to access with a key, but that there was intermittent fault with closure mechanism, meaning it did not always close automatically.

The Care Home pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4(3) of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 which requires employers to ensure that work equipment is constructed or adapted to be suitable for the purpose for which it is provided. The Care Home has been fined £60,000.

Speaking after the hearing, a HSE Inspector said: "This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out correct control measures and safe working practices.

"Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards."



**If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact:**

Corporate Health & Safety Advisers (see George section: Corporate > Information for Working > Risk Management > H&S Advisers)