



Flint man accused of abusing his elderly mother

Posted by Bryn Mickle | The Flint Journal September 03, 2009 11:33AM

MT. MORRIS TOWNSHIP, Michigan -- A Flint man is accused of not giving his elderly mother anything to eat or drink for a week.

By the time 76-year-old Eiko Sampson was finally taken to the hospital, Genesee County Sheriff Robert J. Pickell said she was suffering from a gangrenous heel that forced doctors to amputate her right leg above the knee.

"Even at a concentration camp they got rice and water," said Pickell.
"She got nothing for a week."

James J. Sampson, 48, of Flint is charged with first-degree vulnerable adult abuse for allegedly neglecting his mother over the course of eight months.

Such cases in Genesee County have typically been charged as second-degree abuse, but Genesee County Prosecutor David S. Leyton said Sampson's alleged actions were "beyond reckless."

"He absolutley had to know she was suffering and that gangrene had set in," said Leyton, adding that investigators found jars of unused ulcer cream at her home.

Sampson's mother died in July, just two days after police began looking into the allegations of neglect.

Investigators say Eiko Sampson depended on her son for daily care at her Mt. Morris Township home, including eating, bathing and taking medicines.

But police believe James Sampson did not meet many of those basic needs, including monitoring the her blood sugar for her diabetes.

A police search of the woman's home in July found that the sole glucometer there had not taken a blood sugar reading since the end of January, Pickell said.

Her doctor had asked that her blood sugar be tested three times a day, said Pickell.

Police also believe that she had not been given her daily medicines on a regular basis.

Pickell said Eiko Sampson was hospitalized in February after she was left at home by herself for a week.

A visiting nurse who saw her after she was left alone allegedly told Sampson to take his mother to the hospital immediately but Pickell said he waited another two days to do it.