

Modesto nursing home gets state's harshest fine

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MODESTO, Calif.—A Modesto nursing home got the state's **most severe citation** after the California Department of Health Services found that the **poor care of a 91-year-old patient led him to choke to death on a peach.**

The "AA citation" issued against **English Oaks** Convalescent & Rehabilitation Hospital last month is the most severe penalty under state Department of Public Health codes. The facility was also **fined \$100,000.**

State authorities cited the nursing home after an **autopsy determined** that Ernest Costa Sr. died on Feb. 17, 2007, from **choking on part of a peach.**

The citation charges that English Oaks **workers never investigated what was causing Costa to choke, and didn't offer emergency care to try to save him.**