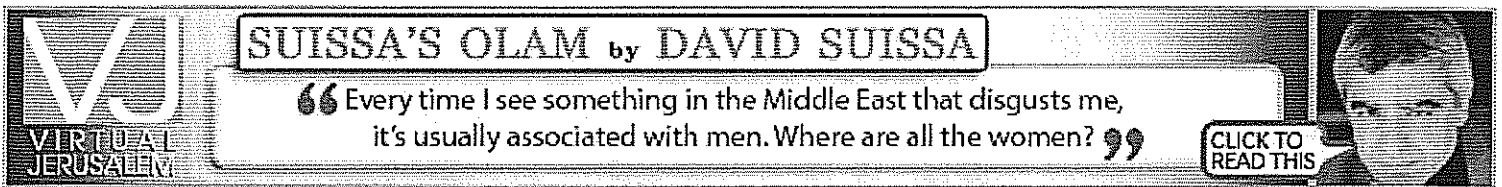


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October 14, 2014

## Major Haredi Philanthropist Accused Of Being “Serial Violator” Of Nursing Home Regulations, Laws

**Shlomo Yehuda Rechnitz is a major haredi philanthropist. He is also a son-in-law of haredi Rabbi Yisroel Belsky, the rosh yeshiva of Torah Vodaas who has been accused of repeatedly protecting haredi pedophiles. Belsky is also allegedly linked to in the Jewish divorce electric cattle prod extortion scandal.**



*Above: Shlomo Yehuda Rechnitz*

*Update 9:07 pm CDT. Newer update 2-10-2015 posted at bottom.*

## Major Haredi Philanthropist Accused Of Being “Serial Violator” Of Nursing Home Regulations, Laws

Shmarya Rosenberg • FailedMessiah.com

Novato Healthcare, a 181-bed nursing home located in in Novato, California, is one of 57 California nursing homes named in a class-action lawsuit. The nursing homes face allegations of fraud, unfair business practices and violation of residents' rights.

The lawsuit, filed on October 7 in Los Angeles Superior Court, reportedly alleges among other things that Shlomo Yehuda Rechnitz, owner of Brius Management and Brius LLC, was "a serial violator of skilled nursing industry laws and

regulations." Brius owns Novato Healthcare.

Rechnitz is a major haredi philanthropist. (For example, see [here](#).) He is also a son-in-law of haredi Rabbi Yisroel Belsky, the rosh yeshiva of Torah Vodaas who has been accused of repeatedly protecting haredi pedophiles. Belsky is also allegedly linked to in the Jewish divorce electric cattle prod extortion scandal. (Belsky has not been indicted or charged.)

A spokesman for Rechnitz and Brius, Michael Sitrick, wrote in an email to FailedMessiah.com implied that the lawsuit was a form of extortion.

*"This lawsuit is filled with baseless and untrue allegations. It is notable that it makes no allegations of harm to or abuse of our patients. It is also telling, we believe, that its filing came after we refused to enter into a lucrative consulting contract with the plaintiff's attorney, Steve Garcia, and that Mr. Garcia has been sued at least once for, among other things, "Attempted Civil Extortion."*

*"The fact is, Brius facilities are operated at the highest standards and have been appointed as one of the only State Certified Temporary Managers to take control of troubled nursing facilities.*

*"This lawsuit is a case in point of how anyone can say anything in a lawsuit regardless of whether it's true. We look forward to proving the allegations in this lawsuit to be utterly false."*

The lawsuit does not describe personal injuries to nursing home residents because "they are specifically excluded from this particular type of class action lawsuit," the plaintiff's attorney, Stephen Garcia, reportedly said.

However, the plaintiff, Raymond Foreman, reportedly filed a separate individual personal injury lawsuit in Los Angeles Superior Court that alleges Foreman's nursing home (which is not a home that is owned by Novato Healthcare) was dangerously understaffed. Foreman alleges that, contrary to good practice, a certified nursing assistant tried to move Foreman by herself instead of with another nursing assistant. She allegedly fell on Foreman's leg, injuring him.

Medicare.gov, the official US Government Medicare website, gives Novato Healthcare an overall below average rating and a below average health inspection rating. Its staffing is rated average. But Novato has an above average quality measure, which is based on resident assessment data. Quality measure is the least precise of all the category ratings on the Medicare.gov website and is the category most easily manipulated by nursing home administrators.

**Update 2-10-2015** – Rechnitz buys distressed nursing homes and turns them around. Because of how the state inspection process works, violations accrued under previous ownership carry over to new ownership. And fixing these violations often takes some time. Please read newer posts [here](#) and [here](#).

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