

# Centennial Hospital faces legal claims

By JENNY DAVIS

With four witnesses coming forward saying that Steven Farmer, a freelance certified nursing assistant, had sexually assaulted them at Centennial Hospital, one attorney says



Farmer

that a legal claim against the hospital is now inevitable.

Neal Hyman, who is representing the woman who first reported Farmer, said he has already made phone calls to Centennial and its parent company, Pennsylvania-based Universal Health Services. In Las Vegas, Centennial is part of the Valley Health System.

He will most likely be filing a legal claim or lawsuit alleging lack of security in

the hospital, negligence, lack of an efficient background check and unwise hospital policies and practices.

Representatives of Centennial are not commenting while the incidents are still under investigation.

Hyman is also looking to file suit against American Nursing Services Inc., a supplemental staffing and home care company; the organization Farmer was working for.

Representatives from the nursing service were unavailable for comment.

After the four women testified against Farmer in a preliminary hearing July 1, Hyman said the case became "ironclad" and that Farmer could be facing life in prison.

But Farmer's public defender, Stacey Roundtree, disagrees.

"We believe he will be vindicated after a fair trial," she said.

Farmer is facing 10 charges including sexual assault, indecent exposure and open and gross lewdness.

He was arrested the day after a woman told police that Farmer assaulted her on May 16 while she was being transported from the emergency room.

A Metro Police report said all the women who testified said they were assaulted while under heavy medication and while in their hospital beds. They testified that Farmer would tell them he was trying to relax them while he was committing the sexual assaults. The alleged attacks on the woman span from December 2007 to May 2008.

Farmer will appear in District Court for a pre-trial hearing on Aug. 27.

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