

**William J. Streur**

Acting Commissioner

P.O. Box 110601

Juneau, AK 99811-0601

[www.hss.state.ak.us](http://www.hss.state.ak.us)



**Press Release**

**COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Dec. 23, 2010

Contact: Sarana Schell, (907) 269-8041, Cell (907) 398-1480, [sarana.schell@alaska.gov](mailto:sarana.schell@alaska.gov)  
Cathy Stadem, (907) 269-3495, Cell (907) 529-1520, [catherine.stadem@alaska.gov](mailto:catherine.stadem@alaska.gov)

### **Anchorage Pioneer Home reports death of resident**

(Anchorage, AK) — At approximately 1:30 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 22, a resident at the Anchorage Pioneer Home went outside to smoke a cigarette, failed to come back inside and died outside the home of unknown causes. A medical examiner's report is pending.

The resident had lived at the home for several years, and had many times in the past stepped out for a middle-of-the-night cigarette in the same way, with no previous problems. It is unclear why she did not come back in through the unlocked front door as she had a few hours earlier.

The home offers several levels of care. At this resident's care level, she had the freedom to come and go as she pleased and was not considered at risk of wandering. Residents who are at risk of wandering are closely monitored by a wander guard alarm system and bed checks every two hours during the night.

"Employees and residents of the home are deeply saddened by her passing," said Richard Saville, Anchorage Pioneer Home Administrator. "We met with the staff Thursday morning to carefully review the incident. The health and safety of our residents is paramount to our staff. We are continually looking for ways to maintain resident safety while respecting their privacy and allowing them each as much freedom as is appropriate."

For more information on the Alaska Pioneer Home system, go to:  
<http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dalp/>.

###

*DHSS is now on Twitter. Follow health updates at [www.twitter.com/Alaska\\_DHSS](http://www.twitter.com/Alaska_DHSS).*