

October is “Residents’ Rights Month,” a chance to honor and celebrate residents who live in long-term care settings.



This month’s newsletter focuses on ways to respect the dignity,

choices, and values of each resident.

Nursing Home Reform Law

The federal Nursing Home Reform Law guarantees residents many rights and stresses each resident’s right to dignity, choice, and independence. This law requires nursing homes to “*promote and protect the rights of each resident.*”

The Right to be Free From Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation

The federal government tells nursing home surveyors how to make sure residents’ rights are being respected:



“The resident has the right to be free from abuse, neglect, misappropriation of resident property, and exploitation.” This includes punishing residents, forcing residents to remain alone against their wishes, and restraining residents improperly with drugs or physical restraints.

Tips for Staff on Resident Rights

Right to Dignity:

- Treat each resident with dignity
- Listen to and speak respectfully to all residents

Right to Privacy

- Help residents use the phone in privacy
- Make sure residents can send and receive private mail
- Knock on residents’ doors before entering

Right to Be Part of Care Planning

- Discuss with residents the care or treatment they will receive *before* providing it
- Help residents participate in care planning and get the care listed in their care plans

Right to Choose:

- Offer choices to residents whenever possible, including about clothing, food, visitors, & schedules
- Provide meaningful activities residents can choose

Right to Participate:

- Assist residents who want to join a resident council meeting
- Help residents participate in social, religious, and community activities

Right to Make Choices About Their Money:

- Support residents to spend or save their money in whatever ways they choose

Right to Complain:

- Encourage residents to voice their concerns and ensure they feel safe doing so

(**Note:** Rights may be limited, if another person is legally responsible for making decisions for the resident; however, a resident **always** has the right to be treated with dignity and respect.)

The above information was obtained from “**My Rights as a Resident of a Nursing Home**” brochure)

For more information or copies of the brochure, visit MLTCOP.org or email: MLTCOP@meji.org

What Can Staff do to Promote Resident Rights??

The following are practical ways you can honor your residents...



- ◆ Inform residents of their rights
- ◆ Take time to build relationships
- ◆ Learn residents' habits, activities, likes and dislikes
- ◆ Treat each resident like an individual and learn their personal histories, if they are willing to share
- ◆ Encourage residents to share their ideas and voice any concerns they have
- ◆ Use respectful language when you talk about residents
- ◆ Keep health and other information confidential
- ◆ Teach residents that their opinions matter
- ◆ Help residents advocate for themselves
- ◆ Promote a sense of community within your nursing home

Free Activity Book for Residents!



Staying Engaged

Enrichment Activities



Click on the link below for a free, downloadable

Staying Engaged Enrichment Activities booklet for residents!

https://theconsumervoice.org/uploads/files/events/2021_Activity_Book.pdf

To Report Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation

Of a nursing home resident by a staff member:
Call **LARA: (800) 882-6006**

Of an older adult living at home, in assisted living, adult foster care, home for the aged, or a nursing home, by anyone who is *not* a staff member:

Call **Adult Protective Services: (855) 444-3911**

If you think a crime has occurred: Call your local police/sheriff department (and LARA)—If the danger is immediate, call 911



Thank you for protecting and respecting the rights of your residents!

For More Information

Long Term Care Ombudsman: (517) 394-3027

Tri-County Office on Aging: (800) 405-9141

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