

## Rights of Illinois Nursing Home Residents

Just because your family member resides in a long-term care facility, that doesn't mean he or she has given up any of his or her rights. Residents have all the rights due to U.S. citizens, including free speech and the right to vote. Nursing home residents are also guaranteed several Federal and Illinois-specific rights, including:

- **Services & Fees:** You must be informed about services & fees in writing before you enter the home.
- **Money:** You have the right to manage your own money or to choose someone else you trust to do it for you.
- **Privacy:** If you are married with a spouse in the facility, you must be allowed to reside in the same room, unless there is no space. You cannot be forced into sharing a room with any member of the opposite sex.
- **Religious Freedom:** You may freely practice your own religion. The home cannot impose upon you any particular religious beliefs.
- **Personal Belongings:** You have the right to your own clothing and adequate, convenient storage space for your own personal property.
- **Medical Care:** You have the right to be informed about your medical condition, medications, and to see your own doctor. You also have the right to refuse medication and treatments.
- **Restraints:** The home may not physically restrain or confine you unless your doctor has determined it is necessary for your health and safety and has obtained your consent. The facility may not give you drugs for the sole purpose of subduing you.
- **Visiting & Communications:** You must have access to mail facilities and telephones and be allow visitors between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.
- **Involuntary Discharge or Transfer:** You may only be involuntarily discharged or transferred for the following reasons: Medical reasons; For your own safety or that of staff or other residents; Non-payment.

If you have questions about your nursing home rights—or those of a family member, please contact Loren B. Siegel & Associates.

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