



# Residents' Rights

## for People in Intermediate Care Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled

As a resident of an intermediate care facility  
for the developmentally disabled in Illinois,  
you are guaranteed certain rights,  
protections and privileges according  
to State and Federal law.

To obtain copies of the following brochures:

- ▶ **Residents' Rights for People in Long-term Care Facilities**
- ▶ **Residents' Rights for Persons Residing in Supportive Living Facilities**

Call **1-800-252-8966**, **1-888-206-1327** (TTY), or

Visit **[www.state.il.us/aging](http://www.state.il.us/aging)** on the Web and link to  
"News and Publications."

Illinois Department on Aging, 421 East Capitol Avenue, #100, Springfield, Illinois 62701-1789  
Senior HelpLine: 1-800-252-8966, 1-888-206-1327 (TTY) • [www.state.il.us/aging](http://www.state.il.us/aging)

Download this brochure at [www.state.il.us/aging](http://www.state.il.us/aging) in the "News and Publications" section.

The Illinois Department on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in compliance with appropriate State and Federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966, 1-888-206-1327 (TTY).

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### Illinois Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program



**Ombudsman... Resident Advocate**  
**Call 1-800-252-8966 to learn more**

**Protecting, Advocating and Promoting the Rights  
of Residents in Long-term Care Facilities**

## You have the right to...

### ▶ safety and good care

- ▶ Your facility must be clean and stay at a healthy temperature.
- ▶ You must not be abused by anyone — physically, verbally, mentally or sexually.
- ▶ Your facility must not physically restrain you unless other less restrictive ways to keep you safe have been tried.
- ▶ You may be given medicine intended to change your mood or how you think only with your permission.
- ▶ Medicine used to control your behavior may only be used when any potential harmful effects of the medicine are less than the harmful effects of your behavior.

### ▶ participate in your own care

- ▶ Your facility must develop, and revise as necessary, an individual program plan (IPP), which states all the services your facility will provide to you and everything you are expected to do.
- ▶ You and your parent or guardian are to participate in the individual program planning conference. If you are under 18 years old, you and your parent or guardian are to participate.
- ▶ You have the right to choose your own doctor.
- ▶ You are in charge of taking your own medicine if your individual program plan says that you are able to do so.
- ▶ You have the right to complete information about your medical, developmental and behavioral condition and all treatments in a language that you can understand.
- ▶ You have the right to refuse treatment.
- ▶ You have the right to make a Living Will or a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care.

- ▶ You may refuse to participate in any experimental treatment.
- ▶ Your facility must allow you to see your medical records.
- ▶ Your facility may not require you to work without pay.
- ▶ You have the right to make visits, trips, or vacations with your family, friends or legal guardian.
- ▶ You have the right to move out of your facility after you, your guardian, or — if you are a minor — your parent, gives written notice that you plan to move.

### ▶ privacy

- ▶ Your medical and personal care are private.
- ▶ Facility staff must knock before entering your room.
- ▶ Your facility may not give information about you or your care to unauthorized persons without your permission.
- ▶ You have the right to have private visits at any reasonable hour.
- ▶ Your facility must answer letters and phone calls from your family and friends and encourage them to visit you unless you do not want them to visit or your interdisciplinary team decides that the visits would be wrong for you.
- ▶ You may ask any visitor to leave your personal living area.
- ▶ You have the right to make and receive phone calls in private.
- ▶ Your facility must deliver your mail to you promptly, and promptly send mail out for you. Your facility may open your mail with your permission.
- ▶ If you are married, you and your husband or wife have the right to share a room unless no room is available or your doctor has said you cannot share a room for medical reasons.

## ▶ money management

- ▶ You have the right to manage your own money or to receive training from your facility to improve your ability to manage your money.
- ▶ If your facility manages your money,
  - ...it may spend your money only with your permission.
  - ...it must provide a record of all money put into or taken out of your account if you ask.
  - ...it must give you an itemized written statement of your account transactions once every three months.
  - ...it must put your money in a bank account that earns interest for you, if you have more than \$100 in your account.

## ▶ safety of your personal belongings and property

- ▶ You have the right to keep and wear your own appropriate clothing and to participate in choosing new clothing.
- ▶ You may keep and use your own property.
- ▶ You have the right to have a safe place where you can access small valuables.
- ▶ Your facility must try to keep your property from being lost or stolen. If your property is missing, your facility must try to find it.

## ▶ pay for your care or receive Medicaid

- ▶ If you are paying for some or all of your care at your facility, you must be given a contract that says what services are provided by the facility and how much they cost.
- ▶ You have the right to apply for Medicaid to help pay for your care.
- ▶ If you receive Medicaid, the facility may not make you pay for anything that Medicaid pays for. The facility must give you a written list of what items and services Medicaid pays for, and those for which you could be charged.

## ▶ stay in your facility

- ▶ You have the right to live in your facility and receive training to meet your needs, as stated in your Individual Program Plan (IPP).
- ▶ The facility **can** force you to leave because:
  - ...you have not paid your bill,
  - ...you are dangerous to yourself or others,
  - ...your medical needs cannot be met, or
  - ...the facility closes.
- ▶ You cannot be forced to leave your facility because you are applying for Medicaid or you are on Medicaid.
- ▶ If your facility wants to force you to move, you must be given a written notice 21 days before the day it wants you to move. The notice must tell you why your facility wants you to move and how you, your guardian or your parent, if you are under 18 years of age, can appeal to the Illinois Department of Public Health.
- ▶ Your facility must give you the forms you need to appeal, and a stamped, addressed envelope for you to use to mail your appeal to the Illinois Department of Public Health.
- ▶ You have the right to ask Equip for Equality, which is the federally mandated and Governor designated Protection and Advocacy System for people with physical and mental disabilities in Illinois, for self-advocacy assistance in appealing your facility's forcing you to move. Call **1-800-537-2632, 1-800-610-2779 (TTY)**.
- ▶ If you appeal to the Department of Public Health, usually your facility cannot make you leave until the appeal is decided.
- ▶ Before your facility can transfer or discharge you, it must provide preparation and orientation to be sure that your discharge is safe.
- ▶ You must be allowed to return to your facility after you are hospitalized or go home for a therapeutic home visit, unless your facility gives you written notice as described above.

## Remember, you do not lose your rights as a citizen of Illinois and the United States because you live in a long-term care facility.

- ▶ Your facility must let you see reports of all inspections by the Illinois Department of Public Health from the last 5 years.
- ▶ If a court of law has appointed a legal guardian for you, your guardian will exercise your rights for you.
- ▶ If you have named an agent under a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care, your agent may exercise your rights for you.
- ▶ You have freedom of religion.
- ▶ You have the right to vote.
- ▶ You have the right to participate in social and community activities.
- ▶ You have the right to participate with other residents in the Resident Council. Your facility must respond to concerns raised by the council.
- ▶ You have the right to meet with a representative from Equip for Equality, the Illinois Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, community organizations, social service groups, legal advocates, and members of the general public who come to your facility. Representatives of these groups may come to your facility to provide you with services, tell you about your rights, or help you assert your rights.
- ▶ You have the right to present grievances to your facility and to get a prompt response. Your facility may not threaten or punish you in any way for asserting your rights or presenting grievances.
- ▶ You have the right to present grievances to outside organizations and advocates including the following agencies:

**Equip for Equality** for persons with mental illness or developmental disabilities:

1-800-537-2632, 1-800-610-2779 (TTY);

**Illinois Department of Public Health:**

1-800-252-4343, 1-800-547-0466 (TTY); and

**Illinois Department on Aging:**

1-800-252-8966, 1-888-206-1327 (TTY).

If the rights presented in the booklet are not uniformly and consistently applied within your care facility, the following actions are suggested:

**1** Define the problem. Writing it down may help make clear exactly what has happened and why it is wrong. When did it happen? (Give times and dates, if possible.) Who was involved or saw the incident? Ask questions of others who may be involved or know about the problem.

**2** If it seems appropriate, talk the problem over with the staff responsible for taking care of you. Find out the facility procedures for resolving problems or concerns. If this does not seem like a good idea, or if you are not satisfied after you do, talk with the QMRP and then the QMRP can request that the situation be brought to the attention of the interdisciplinary team.

**3** Ask for assistance from the Resident Council. The Council may present complaints on behalf of a resident to any person it considers appropriate.

**4** If you or the Resident Council needs help solving the problem, you may want to ask Equip for Equality for assistance. Equip for Equality is the agency named by the Governor to provide protection and advocacy for persons with

developmental disabilities or mental illness. You may call:  
**Equip for Equality**  
1-800-537-2632  
1-800-610-2779 (TTY)

**5** Contact the Illinois Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program for assistance. The Illinois Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program offers confidential help to older adults who have questions, concerns, and/or complaints regarding the care they are receiving in their long-term care facility. Call:  
**Illinois Department on Aging**  
1-800-252-8966  
1-888-206-1327 (TTY)

**6** Illinois has a formal Central Complaint Registry in the Illinois Department of Public Health. If you think your facility is violating your rights or those of your fellow residents, you can make a complaint against them. The Illinois Department of Public Health will investigate your complaint and if a violation is found, the long-term care facility will be cited and corrective action will be taken.  
**Central Complaint Registry**  
1-800-252-4343  
1-800-547-0466 (TTY)