

# Skilled Nursing Facilities Residents' Rights

CFR › Title 42 › Chapter IV › Subchapter G › Part 483 › Subpart B › Section 483.10  
(The information below is not an exhaustive list. For a complete list of resident rights, please contact the Patient Advocacy Program at (619) 282-1134. The numbering system is for your convenience and does not reference code sections.)  
For a list of facilities, click [here](#).

## **§ 483.10 Resident rights.**

1. (a) *Residents rights*. The resident has a right to a dignified existence, self-determination, and communication with and access to persons and services inside and outside the facility, including those specified in this section.
2. (1) A facility must treat each resident with respect and dignity and care for each resident in a manner and in an environment that promotes maintenance or enhancement of his or her quality of life, recognizing each resident's individuality. The facility must protect and promote the rights of the resident.
3. (2) The facility must provide equal access to quality care regardless of diagnosis, severity of condition, or payment source. A facility must establish and maintain identical policies and practices regarding transfer, discharge, and the provision of services under the State plan for all residents regardless of payment source.
4. (b) *Exercise of rights*. The resident has the right to exercise his or her rights as a resident of the facility and as a citizen or resident of the United States.
5. (1) The facility must ensure that the resident can exercise his or her rights without interference, coercion, discrimination, or reprisal from the facility
6. (2) The resident has the right to be free of interference, coercion, discrimination, and reprisal from the facility in exercising his or her rights and to be supported by the facility in the exercise of his or her rights as required under this subpart.
7. (7)(iii) To the extent practicable, the resident must be provided with opportunities to participate in the care planning process.
8. (e) *Respect and dignity*. The resident has a right to be treated with respect and dignity, including:
  9. (1) The right to be free from any physical or chemical restraints imposed for purposes of discipline or convenience, and not required to treat the resident's medical symptoms, consistent with § 483.12(a)(2).
  10. (2) The right to retain and use personal possessions, including furnishings, and clothing, as space permits, unless to do so would infringe upon the rights or health and safety of other residents.
11. (f)(4) The resident has a right to receive visitors of his or her choosing at the time of his or her choosing, subject to the resident's right to deny visitation when applicable, and in a manner that does not impose on the rights of another resident.
12. (i) The facility must provide immediate access to any resident by -
13. (A) Any representative of the Secretary,
14. (B) Any representative of the State,

15. (C) Any representative of the Office of the State long term care ombudsman, (established under section 712 of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended 2016 ( 42 U.S.C. 3001*et seq.*),
16. (D) The resident's individual physician,
17. (E) Any representative of the protection and advocacy systems, as designated by the state, and as established under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 ( 42 U.S.C. 15001*et seq.*),
18. (F) Any representative of the agency responsible for the protection and advocacy system for individuals with a mental disorder (established under the Protection and Advocacy for Mentally Ill Individuals Act of 2000 ( 42 U.S.C. 10801*et seq.*), and
19. (G) The resident representative.
  1. (iv) The facility must consider the views of a resident or family group and act promptly upon the grievances and recommendations of such groups concerning issues of resident care and life in the facility.
  2. (8) The resident has a right to participate in other activities, including social, religious, and community activities that do not interfere with the rights of other residents in the facility.
  3. (10) The resident has a right to manage his or her financial affairs. This includes the right to know, in advance, what charges a facility may impose against a resident's personal funds.
  4. (g) *Information and Communication.* (1) The resident has the right to be informed of his or her rights and of all rules and regulations governing resident conduct and responsibilities during his or her stay in the facility.
  5. (2) The resident has the right to access personal and medical records pertaining to him or herself.
  6. (i) The facility must provide the resident with access to personal and medical records pertaining to him or herself, upon an oral or written request, in the form and format requested by the individual, if it is readily producible in such form and format (including in an electronic form or format when such records are maintained electronically); or, if not, in a readable hard copy form or such other form and format as agreed to by the facility and the individual, within 24 hours (excluding weekends and holidays); and
  7. (ii) The facility must allow the resident to obtain a copy of the records or any portions thereof (including in an electronic form or format when such records are maintained electronically) upon request and 2 working days advance notice to the facility...
  8. (5)(i) A list of names, addresses (mailing and email), and telephone numbers of all pertinent State agencies and advocacy groups, such as the State Survey Agency, the State licensure office, adult protective services where state law provides for jurisdiction in long-term care facilities, the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman program, the protection and advocacy network, home and community based service programs, and the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit; and
  9. (ii) A statement that the resident may file a complaint with the State Survey Agency concerning any suspected violation of state or federal nursing facility regulations, including but not limited to resident abuse, neglect, exploitation, misappropriation of resident property in the facility, non-compliance with the advance directives requirements ( 42 CFR part 489 subpart I) and requests for information regarding returning to the community.
  10. (7) The facility must protect and facilitate that resident's right to communicate with individuals and entities within and external to the facility, including reasonable access to:

11. (i) A telephone, including TTY and TDD services;
12. (ii) The internet, to the extent available to the facility; and
13. (iii) Stationery, postage, writing implements and the ability to send mail.
14. (8) The resident has the right to send and receive mail, and to receive letters, packages and other materials delivered to the facility for the resident through a means other than a postal service,...
15. (10)(ii) Receive information from agencies acting as client advocates, and be afforded the opportunity to contact these agencies.
16. (h) *Privacy and confidentiality*. The resident has a right to personal privacy and confidentiality of his or her personal and medical records.
17. (1) Personal privacy includes accommodations, medical treatment, written and telephone communications, personal care, visits, and meetings of family and resident groups, but this does not require the facility to provide a private room for each resident.
18. (2) The facility must respect the residents right to personal privacy, including the right to privacy in his or her oral (that is, spoken), written, and electronic communications, including the right to send and promptly receive unopened mail and other letters, packages and other materials delivered to the facility for the resident, including those delivered through a means other than a postal service.
19. (3) The resident has a right to secure and confidential personal and medical records.
20. (i)The resident has the right to refuse the release of personal and medical records except as provided at § 483.70(i)(2) or other applicable federal or state laws.
21. (i) *Safe environment*. The resident has a right to a safe, clean, comfortable and homelike environment, including but not limited to receiving treatment and supports for daily living safely. The facility must provide -
22. (1) A safe, clean, comfortable, and homelike environment, allowing the resident to use his or her personal belongings to the extent possible.
23. (ii) The facility shall exercise reasonable care for the protection of the resident's property from loss or theft.
24. (2) Housekeeping and maintenance services necessary to maintain a sanitary, orderly, and comfortable interior;
25. (3) Clean bed and bath linens that are in good condition;
26. (4) Private closet space in each resident room, as specified in § 483.90(e)(2)(iv);
27. (5) Adequate and comfortable lighting levels in all areas;
28. (6) Comfortable and safe temperature levels. Facilities initially certified after October 1, 1990 must maintain a temperature range of 71 to 81 °F; and
29. (7) For the maintenance of comfortable sound levels.
30. (j) *Grievances*. (1) The resident has the right to voice grievances to the facility or other agency or entity that hears grievances without discrimination or reprisal and without fear of discrimination or reprisal. Such grievances include those with respect to care and treatment which has been furnished as well as that which has not been furnished, the behavior of staff and of other residents; and other concerns regarding their LTC facility stay.