

**NORTH CAROLINA  
BILL OF RIGHTS FOR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS  
(condensed version)**

**EVERY RESIDENT SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS:**

1. To be treated with consideration, respect and full recognition of personal dignity and individuality.
2. To receive care, treatment, and services that are adequate and appropriate, and in compliance with relevant federal and State rules.
3. To receive at the time of admission and during stay, a written statement of services provided by the facility and of related charges. Charges for services not covered under Medicare and Medicaid shall be specified.
4. To have on file physician's orders with proposed schedule of medical treatment. Written, signed evidence of prior informed consent to participation in experimental research shall be in patient's file.
5. To receive respect and privacy in his medical care program. All personal and medical records are confidential.
6. To be free of mental and physical abuse. To be free of chemical and physical restraint unless authorized for a specified period of time by a physician according to clear and indicated medical need.
7. To receive from the administrator or staff of the facility a reasonable response to all requests.
8. To receive visitors or have access to privacy in phone use at any reasonable hour. To send and receive mail promptly and unopened, with access to writing materials.
9. To manage his/her own financial affairs unless other legal arrangements have been so ordered.
10. To have privacy in visits by the patient's spouse.
11. To enjoy privacy in his/her own room.
12. To present grievances and recommend changes in policies and services without fear of reprisal, restraint, interference, coercion or discrimination.
13. To not be required to perform services for the facility without personal consent and written approval of the attending physician.
14. To retain, to secure storage for, and to use his personal clothing and possessions, where reasonable.
15. To not be transferred or discharged from a facility except for medical, financial, or their own or other patient's welfare. Any such transfer shall require at least five days' notice, unless the attending physician orders immediate transfer, which shall be documented in the patient's medical record.
16. To be notified when the facility's license is revoked or made provisional. The responsible party or guardian must be notified, also.

***The Ombudsman is an advocate for those who live in long term care facilities.  
For more information on resident rights,  
call the Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman.***

**(336) 294-4950 or (336) 761-2111**

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • Division Of Aging  
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