

1. VISITATION:

Right to visit in private with any person or persons during reasonable hours, subject to the right of the administrator to refuse access to the facility to any person if the presence of that person in the facility would be injurious to the health and safety of a resident or the staff, or would threaten the security of the property of the resident, staff or facility. T.C.A. Section 68-11-901 (3)

2. TELEPHONE:

Right to communicate by telephone with any person they so choose. Telephones shall be readily accessible, and at least one (1) telephone shall be equipped with sound amplification and shall be accessible to patients while in wheelchairs. T.C.A. Section 68-11-901 (4)

3. MAIL:

Right to the delivery of mail, unopened, on the business day it is received by the facility and to send mail to any person without interference by the facility. T.C.A. Section 68-11-901 (6)

4. SOCIAL:

Right to meet with members of, and take part in activities of, social, commercial, religious and community groups, subject to the right of the administrator to refuse access to the facility to any person if the presence of that person in the facility would be injurious to the health and safety of a resident or the staff, or would threaten the security of the property of the resident, staff or facility. T.C.A. Section 68-11-901 (5)

5. RECORDS:

Right to have records kept confidential and private:

- a) Written consent by the resident must be obtained before any information can be released, except for persons authorized under the law;
- b) If the resident is mentally incompetent, written consent is required by the resident's legal representative; and
- c) The facility must have a written policy governing access to and duplication of patient records and copies of the policy shall be available to all residents and their families upon request. T.C.A. Section 68-11-901 (13)

6. LEAVING THE FACILITY:

Right to be free from detention against their will. Residents shall be permitted to go outdoors, when weather permits, and to leave the premises when accompanied by a responsible, authorized adult, whenever they wish, unless such activity would be clearly dangerous for the resident. T.C.A. Section 68-11-901 (17)

7. SIGNING DOCUMENTS:

Right to exercise the resident's own independent judgment by executing any documents, including admission forms. T.C.A. Section 68-11-901 (23)

8. DENIAL OF ACCESS:

Any person refused access to a nursing home shall be notified at the time of the refusal of such person's right to file a complaint with the department, which may require the facility to answer to its reasons. **Counseling residents regarding their legal rights shall not constitute an activity justifying denial of access.** T.C.A. Section 68-11-908

If you think your rights have been violated or have questions or concerns about a nursing home, please contact **Disability Rights Tennessee (DRT)**:

Email: gethelp@disabilityrightstn.org

Phone: **800.342.1660**

About Disability Rights Tennessee (DRT)

DRT is a nonprofit legal services organization dedicated to protecting the rights of Tennesseans with disabilities. DRT is the federally mandated Protection & Advocacy (P&A) System for Tennessee. DRT is primarily funded by the Administration for Children and Families, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Rehabilitation Services Administration, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Social Security Administration.

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