

RESIDENT VOTING POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Policy:

It is the policy of this facility that each resident be allowed to exercise his/her rights, including the right to vote. All residents will be given equal right to vote without discrimination, interference, coercion or reprisal from the facility. Residents who need assistance with absentee or mail-in voting will be provided appropriate support to exercise their right to vote.

Policy Explanation and Compliance Guidelines:

1. Residents who express a desire to vote should be presumed competent to do so, unless determined to be incompetent under procedures and criteria prescribed by state law.
2. The facility will designate an assigned staff member (“voting liaison”) who is familiar with state voting requirements as it relates to voter registration, applications for absentee ballots, and submitting absentee ballots.
3. If a resident requests assistance with registering to vote, the resident shall be referred to the voting liaison who will then assist the resident with obtaining and then submitting voter registration forms to the appropriate state or local office.
4. If a resident requests assistance with requesting absentee ballots, the resident shall be referred to the voting liaison who will then assist the resident with obtaining and then submitting an absentee ballot application to the appropriate state or local office.
5. The voting liaison shall maintain confidentiality of absentee ballots at the facility. For residents needing assistance with completing the absentee ballot due to physical disability, confidentiality shall always be maintained.
6. The voting liaison shall ensure residents have access to writing implements and a proper writing support surface to cast absentee ballots.
7. The voting liaison shall assist as needed in ensuring that absentee ballots are delivered or mailed to the office of elections in accordance with state and local law.
8. The voting liaison shall arrange transportation for residents who wish to vote in person and can go to the voting precinct to vote.
9. Facility staff may not recommend candidates to residents.
10. Facility staff may not ask residents about their political affiliation or any personal choice questions.

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This policy and procedure is not intended to replace the informed judgment of individual physicians, nurses or other clinicians nor is it intended as a statement of prevailing community standards or minimum standards of practice. It is a suggested method and technique for achieving optimal health care, not a minimum standard below which residents necessarily would be placed at risk.

References:

42 CFR §483.10(b)

42 CFR §483.10(b)(1)

42 CFR §483.10(b)(2)

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. *State Operations Manual, Appendix PP: Guidance to Surveyors for Long Term Care Facilities* (February 2023) F550: Resident Rights.

QSO-21-02-NH.

Administrator Signature: _____ Date: _____

Medical Director Signature: _____ Date: _____

Review Dates: _____

SAMPLE

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