

420-5-10-.08 Quality Of Life.

(1) Quality of Life. A facility must care for its residents in a manner and in an environment that promotes maintenance or enhancement of each resident's quality of life.

(a) Dignity. The facility must promote care for residents in a manner and in an environment that maintains or enhances each resident's dignity and respect in full recognition of his or her individuality.

(b) Self-determination and participation. The resident has the right to

1. Choose activities, schedules, and health care consistent with his or her interests, assessments, and plans of care;

2. Interact with members of the community both inside and outside the facility; and

3. Make choices about aspects of his or her life in the facility that are significant to the resident.

(c) Participation in resident and family groups.

1. A resident has the right to organize and participate in resident groups in the facility;

2. A resident's family has the right to meet in the facility with the families of other residents in the facility;

3. The facility must provide a resident or family group, if one exists, with private space;

4. Staff or visitors may attend meetings at the group's invitation;

5. The facility must provide a designated staff person responsible for providing assistance and responding to written requests that result from group meetings;

6. When a resident or family group exists, the facility must listen to the views and act upon the grievances and recommendations of residents and families

concerning proposed policy and operational decisions affecting resident care and life in the facility.

(d) Participation in other activities. A resident has the right to participate in social, religious, and community activities that do not interfere with the rights of other residents in the facility.

(e) Accommodation of needs. A resident has the right to-

1. Reside and receive services in the facility with reasonable accommodations of individual needs and preferences, except when the health or safety of the individual or other residents would be endangered; and

2. Receive notice before the resident's room or roommate in the facility is changed.

(f) Activities.

1. The facility must provide for an ongoing program of activities designed to meet, in accordance with the comprehensive assessment, the interests and the physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being of each resident.

2. The activities program must be directed by a qualified professional who-

(i) Is a qualified therapeutic recreation specialist or an activities professional who--

(I) Is registered by the Alabama Department of Public Health; and

(II) Is eligible for certification as a therapeutic recreation specialist or as an activities professional by a recognized accrediting body on or after October 1, 1990; or

(III) Has 2 years of experience in a social or recreational program within the last 5 years, 1 of which was full-time in a resident activities program in a health care setting; or

(IV) Is a qualified occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant; or

(V) Has completed a training course approved by the State.

(g) The program coordinator, if not qualified, must function under the supervision of a consultant to assure the Activity Program meets needs of residents until the coordinator is qualified.

1. Activities shall be planned at least one month in advance.

2. An activity calendar(s) shall be prominently displayed.

(i) If a pet therapy program is implemented, the following guidelines must be met:

(I) Pets chosen shall be free of contagious disease or sickness (diarrhea, ringworm, etc.). This includes pets residing at the facility.

(II) Pets shall be inoculated or vaccinated as required by law, with written verification of current inoculations for pets residing in facilities must be on file at the facility.

3. Participation records shall be maintained to reflect that activities have been conducted on a group and individual basis and by whom.

4. Participation records for bed-bound/bed-to-chair residents shall reflect the activities conducted, the response to those activities and who offered activities.

(h) Social Services.

1. The facility must provide medically-related social services to attain or maintain the highest practicable physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being of each resident.

2. A facility with more than 120 beds must employ a qualified social worker on a full-time basis.

3. Qualifications of a social worker. A qualified social worker is an individual with--

(i) A Baccalaureate Degree or Masters Degree and is eligible for Licensure and has successfully made application for Licensure or is licensed in accordance with the Code of Ala. 1975; and

(ii) One year of supervised social work experience in a health care setting working directly with individuals.

(i) Environment. The facility must provide--

1. A safe, clean, comfortable, and homelike environment, allowing the resident to use his or her personal belongings to the extent possible;

2. Housekeeping and maintenance services necessary to maintain a sanitary, orderly, and comfortable interior;

3. Clean bed and bath linens that are in good condition;

4. Private closet space in each resident room;

5. Adequate and comfortable lighting levels in all areas;

6. Comfortable and safe temperature levels maintained at a range of 71-81° F; and

7. For the maintenance of comfortable sound levels.

(j) Facilities

1. Social Service personnel must be located in an area of the facility which:

(i) is easily accessible to residents, families, and staff,

(ii) is identified as the Social Service Office/Department and;

(iii) insures privacy for interviews.

Author: Patricia E. Ivie

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §§22-21-20, et seq.

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