

Nursing Home Residents' Rights

Safeguarding of Personal Funds

You have the right to handle your own financial affairs while you are in a nursing home. However, if you wish, you may request that the nursing home handle some or all of your money for your personal use. This allows you to have some cash or spending money when you request it.

If you request in writing that the nursing home handle some or all of your personal funds, you should know that:

- T The nursing home may not refuse to handle your money.
- T The nursing home cannot force you to have them act as your payee.
- T You should be able to withdraw cash within a reasonable period of time.
- T You will receive a quarterly statement concerning any money handled by your nursing home, and you or your representative may request a statement at any other time.
- T If your source of payment in the nursing home is Medi-Cal reimbursements, and your nursing home handles more than \$50 of your money, it must be placed in an interest bearing account, separate

from the facility's money. If your source of payment is Medicare, your nursing home must deposit any funds in excess of \$100 into an interest bearing account, separate from the facility's money. Any interest earned will be credited to your account. If the nursing home handles less than the amount they are required to deposit for you, the home is not required to, but has the option of placing the money in an interest bearing account. If it does, any interest earned will be credited to your account.

- T If you are on Medi-Cal, you will receive notice when the account reaches \$200 less than the SSI limit for one person.
- T All of your money and valuables must be surrendered to you within three normal banking days of your discharge.
- T No owner, staff member, or representative of a public agency working in the nursing home, or their immediate family members, may purchase or receive from you any item that is worth more than \$100 dollars, unless the transaction is made in the presence of an ombudsman.

For additional information, you may discuss your rights with the staff in your



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nursing home, or contact the Department of Public Health, Licensing and Certification, District Office, or the Ombudsman Program in your county.

The telephone numbers for both agencies are posted in your nursing home.

Licensing and Certification District Offices:
(<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/DistrictOffices.aspx>)

