

The Law Office of
Brown & Brown, P.C.

*Estate, Trust, Tax and
Long Term Care Planning*



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SPECIAL REPORT

Your Rights while a Resident at a Skilled Nursing Facility

If you are a resident at a skilled nursing facility, the U.S. government has enacted guidelines for your health, safety and security. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website, your rights include:

- **Respect:** You have the right to be treated with dignity and respect
- **Services and Fees:** You must be informed in writing about services and fees before you enter the nursing home
- **Money:** You have the right to manage your own money or to choose someone else you trust to do this for you
- **Privacy:** You have the right to privacy, and to keep and use your personal belongings and property as long as it doesn't interfere with the rights, health, or safety of others
- **Medical Care:** You have the right to be informed about your medical condition, medications, and to see your doctor. You also have the right to refuse medications and treatments.

Ombudsman Program

The Colorado Department of Human Services offers an Ombudsman program designed to protect the health, safety, welfare and rights of residents in licensed long-term care. Ombudsmen are advocates who work to resolve individual resident issues and to bring about changes at the local, state, and national level to improve long-term care.

Current ombudsman contacts:

- ◆ **Region 11:** Mesa, Garfield, Moffat and Rio Blanco counties. The contact person is Dave Norman at 970-248-2717.
- ◆ **Region 10:** Gunnison, Hinsdale, Ouray, Montrose, San Miguel and Delta counties. The contact person is Sandy Walker at 970-249-2436, ext 212.
- ◆ For Mesa County specifically, contact Marilyn Richardson at 970-243-7940.

Watch out for Financial Exploitation

The elderly are often victims of financial exploitation and the perpetrator is frequently a family member or close friend. If you suspect something is going on, get to an attorney quickly before the damage becomes irreparable.