



The Beacon

A Newsletter for Long-Term Care Residents

October 2024



National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care



OBSERVING RESIDENTS' RIGHTS MONTH: Knowledge is Power

So you are cozy and content in a single room that you managed to turn into a home for yourself. But nursing home staff members show up one morning and say you have to move to a double room with a roommate you never met. Or worse yet, they plan to ship you to another nursing home altogether.

Nothing you can do, right? Wrong!

State and federal law empowers you to resist a discharge or transfer. Except in emergencies, nursing homes must provide 30 days' notice and a valid reason if they plan to discharge or transfer you out of the nursing home. For room or roommate changes, they must provide advance notice and a justification in writing. In all cases, you have the right to appeal and remain where you are until the matter is resolved.

This is among many crucial rights that the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) will highlight in October for Residents' Rights Month. Follow our posts on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/NJElderOmbudsman>) or Instagram/Threads at [@njelderombudsman](https://www.instagram.com/njelderombudsman).

Residents' Rights Month is an annual awareness and outreach effort by the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care. This year's theme is **The Power of My Voice**. LTCO staff worked with long-term care residents to produce a video amplifying residents' thoughts on the topic. Check out the video on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@njelderombudsman>.

Learn more about residents' rights at [NJ.GOV/OOIE/RESIDENT.SHTML](https://www.nj.gov/ooie/resident.shtml).

LAST CALL! Voter Registration Deadline is Approaching

There is still time — but barely — to register to vote in the 2024 election. If you want to vote but are not yet registered, the deadline is **Oct. 15**.

If you are unsure of your status, visit [VOTE.NJ.GOV](https://www.vote.nj.gov). You can look yourself up or learn how to submit voter registration applications online, by mail, or in person.

More questions? Download our Election Guide at [WWW.NJ.GOV/LTCO](https://www.nj.gov/ltco).

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE



VOTE.NJ.GOV



New Jersey Connection— Residents, Advocates Spotlighted at National Conference

NATIONAL CONSUMER VOICE FOR QUALITY LONG-TERM CARE
48th Annual Conference



Laurie Facciarossa Brewer, Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Elizabeth Speidel, Director of Community Engagement, and three residents — Ray DiFrancesco, Gail Smith, and Martha Robinson — presented at the Consumer Voice conference held in San Francisco in late September.

Speidel, DiFrancesco, Smith, and Robinson led a presentation on Sept. 25 detailing how to transform advocacy efforts by elevating and centering the voices of long-term care residents.

Later that day, Brewer participated in a discussion with Kevin D. Walsh, New Jersey's Acting State Comptroller, and Joshua Lichtblau, Director of the Medicaid Fraud Division, about how advocates and Medicaid watchdogs can find common cause to identify and remove bad actors from the nursing home industry.

Check out next month's edition of The Beacon for more details.

REBUS PUZZLE

1		2		3	
4		5		6	

4. once upon a time, 5. thunderstorm, 6. decide

1. get in shape, 2. fooling Around, 3. backing up

New Jersey Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Laurie Facciarossa Brewer, LTC Ombudsman

www.NJ.GOV/LTCO

FOLLOW US

