

*if any other person is entitled to such assets. If no such person is found, the patient's account at the facility shall be paid, insofar as possible, from such assets, and the balance, if any, shall be credited to the general funds of the State.*

*(b) No action may be brought after the expiration of three years from the date of death or escape of a patient to recover any assets of such patient, remaining at the facility, or in the custody of the facility. This subsection shall not be construed to waive any defense available, including the defense of governmental immunity to any facility or other state agency, whether the action is brought within three years of the death or escape of the patient or not.*

48. Open.

49. Open.

*Subtitle: Patients' Rights.*

50. *Written and telephonic communications and visits.*

*(a) Every patient in every Veterans' Administration Hospital or facility licensed by or under the jurisdiction of the Department shall at all reasonable times have available to him writing instruments, stationery and postage, and may use such material to correspond with anyone, subject to such reasonable limitations as may be imposed by the facility. All correspondence shall be forwarded to the addressee without delay and without being opened except under the direction of the addressee. When, for medical or administrative reasons, limitations are imposed by the facility, such limitations must be made a permanent part of the patient's record and must be signed by a physician.*

*(b) When, in the opinion of an attending physician, the condition of a patient requires the presence of another, when a patient utilizes writing instruments, such presence shall be permitted, if noted on the patient's record and signed by the physician.*

*(c) Every patient in every Veterans' Administration Hospital or facility licensed by or under the jurisdiction of the Department shall, at all reasonable hours, have access to telephones and shall be permitted to telephone any person who has advised the facility, in writing, of his willingness to receive such telephone communications. When, for medical or administrative reasons, patients are prohibited from having telephone communications, such prohibition must be made a permanent part of the patient's record and must be signed by a physician.*

*(d) Every patient in every facility licensed by or under the jurisdiction of the Department shall be entitled to receive visits from an attorney or clergyman of his choice at all reasonable hours. Each facility shall establish reasonable visiting hours for all other persons who may visit the patient if the patient desires to see them.*

*When medically justified, a patient may be restricted from receiving visitors, other than his attorney or clergyman, if such restriction is made a permanent part of his patient records and is signed by a physician. Refusals of patients to see visitors shall also be made permanent parts of patient records.*