

FOR the purpose of clarifying the rights of patients in skilled nursing facilities and intermediate care facilities; listing and describing these rights; transferring these rights to the guardian of a patient found incompetent; requiring notice of the rights; providing for the implementation of this section; and providing for the investigation of grievances.

BY repealing and re-enacting, with amendments,

Article 43 - Health  
Section 565C  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1971 Replacement Volume and 1974 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section 565C of Article 43 - Health, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1974 Supplement) be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Article 43 - Health

565C.

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly and the purpose of this section to promote the interests and well being of the patients and residents of [health care facilities] SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES AND INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES. It is declared to be the public policy of this State that the interests of the patient be protected by a declaration of a patient's bill of rights AND BY REQUIRING THAT THE FACILITIES TREAT THEIR PATIENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS BILL OF RIGHTS, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) Every patient and resident shall [have the right to considerate and respectful care;] BE TREATED WITH CONSIDERATION, RESPECT, AND FULL RECOGNITION OF THEIR DIGNITY AND INDIVIDUALITY;

(2) [Every patient can reasonably expect to obtain from his physician or the resident physician of the facility complete and current information concerning his diagnosis, treatment and prognosis in terms and language the patient can reasonably be expected to understand. In such cases that it is not medically advisable to give such information to the pateint, the information may be made available to the appropriate