

(iii) Is not open to an individual who is not involved directly in the care of the resident unless the resident permits the individual to be present.

(2) Except as necessary for the transfer of a resident from the facility to another health care institution or as required by law or a third party payment contract, the personal and medical records of a resident are confidential and may not be released without the consent of the resident to any individual who:

(i) Is not associated with the facility;  
or

(ii) Is associated with the facility, but does not have a demonstrated need for the information.

(f) If it is feasible to do so and not medically contraindicated, spouses who are both residents of the facility shall be given the opportunity to share a room.

(g) A resident of a facility alone or with other individuals is entitled to present any grievance or recommend a change in a policy or service to the staff or administrator of the facility, the State Office on Aging, or any other person, without fear of reprisal, restraint, interference, coercion, or discrimination.

(h) (1) Each facility shall place at the bedside of each resident the name, address, and telephone number of a physician who is responsible for the resident's care.

(2) A resident shall have access at any reasonable time to a telephone where the resident may speak privately.

(3) A resident shall have [available] ACCESS TO writing instruments, stationery, and postage.

(4) The correspondence of a resident shall be sent to the addressee without delay and without being opened.

~~(5) --Each resident may associate privately and without restriction with any individual PERSON at any reasonable time, WHETHER ON THE INITIATIVE OF THE RESIDENT OR THE OTHER PERSON.~~

(5) EVERY PATIENT AND RESIDENT MAY ASSOCIATE AND COMMUNICATE PRIVATELY AND WITHOUT RESTRICTION WITH PERSONS AND GROUPS OF HIS CHOICE ON HIS OWN OR THEIR INITIATIVE AT ANY REASONABLE HOUR.

(i) Each married resident of a facility shall have privacy during a visit by the spouse.