

FAMILY COUNCIL FOR NO LONGER THAN 6 MONTHS AT WHICH TIME THE FAMILY COUNCIL SHALL BE LED BY A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY COUNCIL.

(C) A NURSING HOME SHALL GIVE EACH NEW OR PROSPECTIVE RESIDENT THE FOLLOWING WRITTEN INFORMATION ABOUT THE FAMILY COUNCIL:

(1) THE NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER OF A CURRENT MEMBER OF THE FAMILY COUNCIL;

(2) A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PURPOSE AND FUNCTION OF THE FAMILY COUNCIL; ~~AND~~

(3) INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW THE RESIDENT OR PROSPECTIVE RESIDENT MAY REVIEW THE PUBLIC FILES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION; AND

(4) THE NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER OF THE STATE OR LOCAL OMBUDSMAN.

(D) A NURSING HOME SHALL RESPOND IN WRITING TO ANY WRITTEN GRIEVANCE OR OTHER WRITTEN COMMUNICATION FROM THE FAMILY COUNCIL WITHIN ~~40~~ 14 CALENDAR DAYS AFTER RECEIVING A COMMUNICATION.

(E) (1) A NURSING HOME SHALL CREATE AND MAINTAIN A PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE FILE AND A REGULATORY CORRESPONDENCE FILE FOR COMMUNICATIONS WITH A FAMILY COUNCIL.

(2) THE CORRESPONDENCE FILES SHALL INCLUDE A COPY OF EACH WRITTEN COMMUNICATION AND RESPONSE DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION.

(3) (I) THE RECORDS IN THE REGULATORY FILE SHALL BE UNEDITED.

(II) THE RECORDS IN THE PUBLIC FILE SHALL DELETE ANY INFORMATION THAT IDENTIFIES AN INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT.

(4) THE PUBLIC FILE MAY BE REVIEWED BY A RESIDENT, PROSPECTIVE RESIDENT, OR THE REPRESENTATIVE OF EITHER A RESIDENT OR PROSPECTIVE RESIDENT DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS AND AT ANY OTHER TIME THE NURSING HOME AGREES TO MAKE THE PUBLIC FILE AVAILABLE.

(5) THE NURSING HOME SHALL PROMPTLY COMPLY WITH A REQUEST BY A LICENSING AUTHORITY TO REVIEW THE RECORDS IN EITHER THE PUBLIC OR REGULATORY FILES.

**Article 70B - Department of Aging**

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(c) There is established in the Department a Maryland Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. The Secretary shall designate a Maryland Long-Term Care Ombudsman.