

The Senior Snippet

Written by Erin LeBlanc

Residents living in a long-term care facility have the right to make choices about nursing home living arrangements.

For example:

—You must be notified in advance if your nursing home plans to move you or change your roommates.

—You have the right to refuse a room change if you are being moved because the payment source for your care changes. However, you may be responsible for any additional costs.

—You may use some of your personal belongings to decorate your room. Items such as a bedspread, pillow, blanket, small dresser, lamp, TV, pictures or other personal items are acceptable when there is space for them in your room, and such items do not infringe on the health or safety of residents. In fact, it's encouraged for you to have items of meaning around you to make the environment more home-like.

Do nursing home residents have any rights concerning their room or choice of roommate? Yes. If you live in a Medicare- or Medicaid-approved nursing home, you have certain rights concerning your room and roommates. You have the right:

—to refuse a room transfer in some situations.

—to receive advance notice before any allowable room transfer.

—to share a room with a compatible roommate.

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—to share a room with your spouse if you both agree.

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