

Residents Rights News



South Ombudsman Program

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A New Message from your Advocates

Ombudsmen are used to visiting long-term care facilities routinely to speak with residents, monitor conditions and investigate concerns. Because facilities have restricted visits from people outside the facility, we have been calling almost everyday to talk to staff and residents about conditions in the facilities and find out how the residents are doing. Working with several administrators, social workers and activities directors, we have been able to see some residents on a tablet, a computer, or a cell phone.

We have heard from many residents that they miss their family and friends who used to visit often and have been unable to do so. Residents have expressed that they are appreciative that the staff in their facilities are taking extra care and precautions to keep them safe. We do not know when everything will return to 'normal' and there are still uncertainties with the pandemic. However, there is some encouraging news regarding the ramping up of testing, new medications to treat the virus and a possible vaccine on the horizon as trials are underway in several areas of the globe.

Still, we all have 'cabin fever,' and anxiously try to stay as occupied as possible, reaching out to our loved ones with window visits, drive by parades, phone calls and if possible, seeing their faces on a Facetime call or an iPad or tablet.

Please know that we are thinking of you and are looking forward to visiting with you again, hopefully soon. In the meantime, feel free to contact your ombudsman if you have any concerns about your care or your rights. - Cat, Frances, Debbie, Kristi, Kaleena, Ladonna, Monica & Sylenthea



Residents, Medicaid, and Stimulus Checks: What You Need to Know

Under recent COVID-19 legislation, most nursing facility residents are receiving stimulus payments of up to \$1,200. The Internal Revenue Service will issue these payments in the same way that you receive your Social Security benefit (direct deposit or a paper check by mail).

This money belongs to you, not the nursing facility! This is true even if Medicaid pays for your care and services at the facility. Under Medicaid rules, a stimulus payment is not counted as income. Therefore,

receiving a stimulus payment does not change a resident's monthly payment (often called a "same monthly amount to the patient pay amount" or "share of cost"). The resident pays the nursing facility and keeps the stimulus payment for their own use.

In addition, the stimulus payment does not count as a Medicaid resource for 12 months. In other words, for the first year, the payment cannot cause you to have "too much" savings. A resident can spend the stimulus money as they wish, including gifts and charitable contributions. **This is the resident's money to spend on their wants and needs.**

When Will the Check Arrive? The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) began sending stimulus payments on April 17, 2020. Checks are sent the same way checks are currently sent for persons receiving Social Security. All recipients of Social Security benefits, including retirement, survivors, disability (SSDI), and supplemental security income (SSI);

Veterans Administration benefits; or Railroad Retirement benefits will receive payment automatically, without any action on their part. If someone is currently receiving benefits through direct deposit, the stimulus payment will arrive through direct deposit as well.

Do I Need to File a Tax Return to Receive a Check? Most residents will not need to do anything. Action is only required if the resident does NOT receive Social Security (including retirement, survivors, disability, and SSI), Veterans Administration, or Railroad Retirement benefits AND did not file a tax return in both 2018 and 2019.

Who Else Can I Contact? Residents, their family, or facility staff can contact the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program at **1-800-262-6612** if they are concerned about their right to spend their own stimulus money.

Source: National Center on Law & Elder Rights



WHAT CAN I BUY WITH MY STIMULUS CHECK?

S	R	I	A	H	C	L	E	E	H	W	S	H	O	E	S	I	W	I	G
T	H	O	I	C	E	C	A	S	D	R	C	G	H	J	K	T	C	L	Z
E	C	E	L	L	P	H	O	N	E	E	O	S	V	E	M	O	Q	B	
L	B	O	I	U	Y	U	R	E	R	C	W	S	M	L	S	F	N	J	E
E	O	D	H	E	A	R	T	H	C	L	R	E	B	P	G	H	S	B	D
V	O	H	F	D	S	C	E	R	T	I	O	A	P	E	U	K	I	H	D
I	K	N	B	V	S	H	X	U	A	N	T	T	Y	Y	C	T	D	B	I
S	S	I	N	N	M	D	J	S	R	E	K	L	A	W	U	T	E	U	N
I	A	A	G	R	A	O	S	E	C	R	N	C	E	R	N	S	R	R	G
O	R	S	L	M	I	N	U	T	E	S	Y	T	H	J	K	U	T	I	L
N	E	B	Y	B	I	A	K	I	U	Y	T	G	M	J	O	O	F	A	F
T	J	I	U	P	N	T	M	N	S	N	A	C	K	S	N	C	I	L	U
P	H	R	I	R	D	I	Y	N	T	C	L	O	T	H	I	N	G	P	N
A	K	D	O	I	M	O	L	O	P	Y	R	T	Y	U	I	O	N	O	D
J	E	F	S	O	N	N	L	C	I	S	L	I	P	P	E	R	S	L	C
A	Y	E	G	L	A	S	S	E	S	L	U	I	D	S	H	J	K	I	A
M	W	E	R	C	O	N	F	I	D	E	N	T	U	R	E	S	T	C	R
A	W	D	S	Y	D	A	F	H	J	P	U	M	H	K	L	L	I	Y	D
S	L	E	T	H	Y	M	R	G	I	F	T	C	A	R	D	S	O	N	S
Y	A	R	N	K	L	P	E	R	S	O	N	A	L	I	T	E	M	S	K

BIRD FEEDER

BOOKS

BURIAL POLICY

BEDDING

CARDS

CELLPHONE

CHURCH DONATION

CLOTHING

COMPUTER

DENTURES

EYEGLASSES

GIFTCARDS

MINUTES

PAJAMAS

PERSONAL ITEMS

RECLINER

SHOES

SLIPPERS

SNACKS

TABLETS

TELEVISION

WALKERS

WHEELCHAIRS

WIG

YARN



Just Add a Little Color



*“So it's home again, and home again, America for me!
/ My heart is turning home again and there I long to
be, / In the land of youth and freedom, beyond the
ocean bars, / Where the air is full of sunlight and the
flag is full of stars.” — Henry Van Dyke, “America
For Me”*



GEORGIA ON MY MIND

HOME

This is my Home.
We live here each and every day.
We have the right to voice, within reason,
What we do or say,

Each month the Resident Council meets,
Where we can state our views.
They try to solve any problems we have,
And give us the latest news.

The nurses and care givers,
Try to make comfortable for us,
They try to be helpful,
Even though we may fuss.

Nourishment is provided,
With two choices of food.
The dining room is decorated attractively,
To put us in the mood.

Activities always have
Something for us to do.
They try to keep us busy
The whole day though.

The folks in Social Services have
A listening ear.
They listen to our cares and concerns.
The ones we hold most dear.

This is our home.
Where we live each and every day,
The staff here hopes we have
A very pleasant day.

Author: Patty
PA Nursing Home Resident
From CV- 40 Words of Wisdom



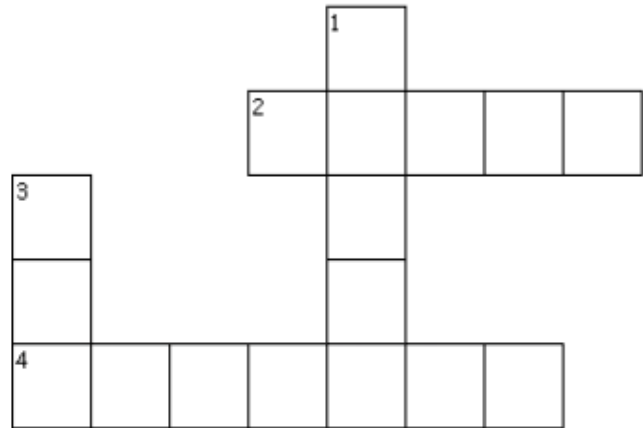
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Valdosta, GA 31602

Phone: 800-282-6612

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ACROSS

- 2. What is Georgia's State Food?
- 4. What is the Capitol of Georgia?

DOWN

- 1. The State Bird of Georgia is the ___ thrasher
- 3. What is the name of the mascot for the Bulldogs?

OMBUDSMAN

Your Resident Rights Advocate is

SOWEGA Council on Aging 1-800-282-6612

Giggles...



Deciding to take up jogging, old Joe was astounded by the wide selection of jogging shoes available at the local sports shoe store. While trying on a basic pair of jogging shoe, he noticed a minor feature and asked the clerk: "What is this little pocket thingy here on the side for?" And the clerk: "Oh, that's to carry spare change so you can call your wife to come pick you up when you've jogged too far."

source: <http://www.jokes4us.com/sportsjokes/runningjokes.html>