Personal Rights

a. Each resident shall have personal rights which include, but are not limited to, the following:

1) To be accorded dignity in his/her personal relationships with staff, residents and other persons.
2) To be accorded safe, healthful and comfortable accommodations, furnishings and equipment.
3) To be free from corporal or unusual punishment, humiliation, intimidation, mental abuse or actions of a punitive nature, such as withholding of monetary allowances or interfering with daily living functions such as eating or sleeping patterns or elimination.
4) To be informed by the licensee of the provisions of law regarding complaints and of procedures to confidentially register complaints, including, but not limited to, the address and telephone number of the complaint receiving unit of the licensing agency.
5) To have the freedom on attending religious services or activities of his/her choice and to have visits from the spiritual advisor of his/her choice. Attendance at religious services, either in or outside the facility, shall be on a completely voluntary basis.
6) To leave or depart the facility at any time and to not be locked into any room, building, or on facility premises by day or night. This does not prohibit the establishment of house rules, such as the locking of doors at night, for the protection of residents; not does it prohibit, with permission of the licensing agency, the barring of windows against intruders.
7) To visit the facility prior to residence along with his/her family and responsible persons.
8) To have his/her family or responsible persons regularly informed the facility of activities related to his care or services including ongoing evaluations, as appropriate to the resident’s needs.
9) To have communications to the facility from his/her family and responsible persons answered promptly and appropriate.
10) To be informed the facility’s policy concerning family visits and other communications with residents, as specified in Health and Safety Code Section 1569.313.
   a. Section 15569.313 of the Health and Safety Code provides that This policy shall be designed to encourage regular family involvement with the resident and shall provide ample opportunities for family participation in activities at the facility.
11) To have his/her visitors, including Ombudspersons and advocacy representatives permitted to visit privately during reasonable hours and without prior notice, provided that the rights of other residents are not infringed upon.

12) To wear his/her own clothes; to keep and use his/her own personal possessions, including his/her toilet articles; and to keep and be allowed to spend his/her own money.

13) To have access to individual storage space for private use.

14) To have reasonable access to telephones, to both make and receive confidential calls. The licensee may require reimbursement for long distance calls.

15) To mail and receive unopened correspondence in a prompt manner.

16) To receive or reject medical care, or other services.

17) To receive assistance in exercising the right to vote.

18) To move from the facility.

b. At admission, a resident and the resident’s responsible person or conservator shall be personally advised of and given a list of these rights, the licensee shall have each resident and the resident’s responsible person or conservator sign a copy of these rights, and the signed copy shall be included in the resident’s record.

c. Facilities licensed for seven (7) or more shall prominently post, in areas accessible to the residents and their relatives, the following:

1. Procedures for filing confidential complaints.
2. A copy of these rights or, in lieu of a posted copy, instructions on how to obtain additional copies of these rights.

d. The information in c. above shall be posted in English, and in facilities where a significant portion of the residents cannot read English, in the language they can read.

Section 87572, State of California, Manual of Policies and Procedures, Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly Title 22, Division 6, Chapter 8