



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

September 4, 2024

AL TSA: NH #2024-043
AL TSA: ICF/IID #2024-019
AL TSA: ALF #2024-029
AL TSA: AFH #2024-035
AL TSA: ESF #2024-027
AL TSA: CCRSS #20240-027

REMINDER OF REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO RESIDENTS' RIGHT TO VOTE

Dear Administrator, Superintendent, or Provider:

Election time is right around the corner. Residential Care Services (RCS) is providing a reminder about the existing requirements to affirm and support the right for residents/clients to vote.

Current regulations related to exercising the right as a citizen of the United States, including voting or use of mail (including use for mail-in or absentee ballots), under Residents' Rights include:

- Residents/clients have the right to exercise their rights as a resident/client of the facility and as a citizen or resident of the United States. The facility has the responsibility to support or promote those rights.
- The facility must ensure that residents/clients can exercise their rights without interference, coercion, discrimination, or reprisal from the facility.
- The right to send and promptly receive unopened mail.

RCS strongly encourages long term care (LTC) facilities and its owners, administrators, and/or superintendents, to have a plan to ensure residents/clients can exercise their right to vote and collaborate to ensure their right to vote is not impeded.

If a home is considering using people outside the facility to come in to assist residents/clients with the polling process, the facility should ensure those individuals support residents/clients in the exercise of their right to vote, including absentee, voting by mail, transporting residents/clients to polling locations, or ballot drop boxes in a safe manner.

If any residents/clients, their representatives, or facility staff who believe their rights under these regulations have been violated, can file a complaint with the RCS Complaint Resolution Unit at 800-562-6078 or <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/residential-care-services/residential-care-services-online-incident-reporting>.

Allegations of voter coercion or intimidation may be referred to the Department of Justice for filing voting complaints with the Civil Rights Division by calling 800-253-3931, emailing voting.section@usdoj.gov or by submitting an [online form](#).

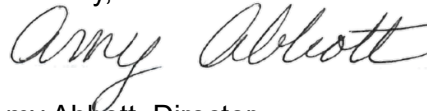
Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact Molly McClintock, Lead LTC Policy Program Manager, at (360) 742-6966 or molly.mcclintock@dshs.wa.gov.

AL TSA Provider Letter: **REMINDER OF REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO RESIDENTS' RIGHT TO VOTE**

September 4, 2024

Page 2

Sincerely,



Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: *"Transforming Lives"*

Regulatory References:

AFH: [RCW 70.129.020](#)
[RCW 70.129.080](#)
[Chapter 388-76-10510 WAC](#)
[Chapter 388-76-10515 WAC](#)

ALF: [RCW 70.129.020](#)
[RCW 70.129.080](#)
[Chapter 388-78A-2660 WAC](#)

CCRSS: [RCW 71A.26.030](#)
[Chapter 388-101D-0125 WAC](#)

ESF: [RCW 70.129.020](#)
[RCW 70.129.080](#)
[Chapter 388-107-0190 WAC](#)

ICF/IID: [42 CFR 483.20\(a\)\(3\)](#)

NH: [42 CFR §483.10\(b\)\(2\)](#)
[Chapter 18.51.009 RCW](#)
[Chapter 388-97-0180 WAC](#)
[Chapter 388-97-0500 WAC](#)
[QSO-21-02-NH](#)