RIGHTS IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES
(Minnesota State Law)

1. Every patient and resident shall have the right to considerate and respectful care.

2. Every patient and resident can reasonably expect complete and current information concerning his/her diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis in terms he/she can understand from his/her physician or the facility resident physician. When it is not medically advisable to give the information to the patient or resident, it may be made available to the appropriate person on his/her behalf.

3. Every patient and resident shall have the right to know by name and specialty, if any, the physician responsible for coordination of his/her care.

4. Every patient and resident shall have the right to every consideration of his/her privacy and individuality as it relates to his/her social, religious, and psychological well being.

5. Every patient and resident shall have the right to respectfulness and privacy as it relates to his/her medical care program. Case discussion, consultation, examination, and treatment are confidential and should be conducted discreetly.

6. Every patient and resident shall have the right to expect the facility to make a reasonable response to his/her requests.

7. Every patient and resident shall have the right to obtain information on the relationship of the facility to other health care and related institutions insofar as his/her care is concerned.

8. Every patient and resident shall have the right to expect reasonable continuity of care. This shall include, but not be limited to what appointment times and physicians are available.

9. Every resident shall be fully informed, prior to or at the time of admission and during his/her stay, of services available in the facility, and of related charges, including any charges for services not covered under Medicare or Medicaid or not covered by the facility’s basic per diem rate.

10. Every patient and resident shall have the opportunity to participate in the planning of his/her medical treatment and to refuse to participate in experimental research.

11. No resident shall be arbitrarily transferred or discharged but may be transferred or discharged only for medical reasons, for his/her welfare or other residents’ welfare, or for nonpayment for stay unless prohibited by the welfare programs paying for the care of the resident, as documented in the medical record. Reasonable advance notice of any transfer or discharge must be given to a resident.

12. Every resident may manage his/her personal financial affairs, or shall be given at least a quarterly accounting of financial transactions on his/her behalf if he/she delegates this responsibility in accordance with the law of Minnesota to the facility for any period of time.

13. Every resident shall be encouraged and assisted throughout his/her stay in a facility to understand and exercise his/her rights as a patient and as a citizen, and to this end, he/she may voice grievances and recommend changes in policies and services to facility staff and outside
representatives of his/her choice, free from restraint, interference, coercion, discrimination or reprisal.

14. Every resident shall be free from mental and physical abuse, and free from chemical and physical restraints, except in emergencies, or as authorized in writing by his/her physician for a specified and limited period of time, and when necessary to protect the resident from injury to him/herself or to others.

15. Every patient and resident shall be assured confidential treatment of his/her personal and medical records, and may approve or refuse their release to any individual outside the facility, except as otherwise provided by law or a third party payment contract.

16. No resident shall be required to perform services for the facility that are not included for therapeutic purposes in his/her plan of care.

17. Every resident may associate and communicate privately with persons of his/her choice, and send and receive his/her personal mail unopened, unless medically contraindicated and documented by his/her physician in the medical record.

18. Every resident may meet with representatives and participate in activities of commercial, religious, and community groups at his/her discretion, provided, however, that the activities shall not infringe upon the right to privacy of other residents.

19. Every resident may retain and use his/her personal clothing and possessions as space permits, unless to do so would infringe upon rights of other patients or residents, and unless medically contraindicated and documented by their physicians in the medical record.

20. Every resident, if married, shall be assured privacy for visits by his/her spouse and if both spouses are residents of the facility, they shall be permitted to share a room, unless medically contraindicated and documented by their physicians in the medical record.

21. Every patient or resident shall be fully informed, prior to or at the time of admissions and during his/her stay at a facility, of the rights and responsibilities set forth in this section and of all rules governing patient conduct and responsibilities.

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Advisor                           Student

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Date

January, 1977