

Housing for seniors: Nursing homes

Living in
a nursing
home

A nursing home is a place to live for seniors with complex medical needs, where they have 24-hour access to an on-site Registered Nurse. The *Nursing Homes Act* tells you the rules for nursing homes that operate in Alberta.

What you should know about the *Nursing Homes Act*:

- It limits how much money seniors can be charged to live in a nursing home
- It gives seniors rights to basic accommodation and meals, drugs and medicine as prescribed by a doctor, and certain personal care services if they live in a nursing home
- It requires nursing homes to keep track of seniors' personal property including money
- It requires all nursing homes to meet Long-term Care Accommodation Standards and Continuing Care Health Service Standards set by the Government of Alberta

When you apply to live in a nursing home, you might be required to provide documents like:

- Power of Attorney for Finances (if there is one)
- Power of Attorney for Personal Care (if there is one)
- Last year's Notice of Assessment
- Advanced Health Care Directives
- Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan number
- Social Insurance Number

If you are admitted into a nursing home, you have 5 days to use your designated bed or else it may be given away to someone else.

If you are living in a nursing home, a committee will decide whether or not you should keep living there.

Sometimes, the term "facility living" may be used to describe a senior who lives in a nursing home or other long-term continuing care facility.

There are appeal processes available for nursing homes:

- If your application to live in a nursing home is rejected, you can make an appeal to the District Board.
- If you live in a nursing home, you can make an appeal to a complaint officer's decision.
- If your application to live in a nursing home is rejected or your appeal is unsuccessful, you can contact the Home Care Office for alternative services available to suit your needs.

If you have concerns about abuse or safety of seniors in a nursing home:

Contact Protection for Persons in Care
Toll-free (province-wide): 1.888.357.9339

You should not rely on this publication for legal advice.
It provides general information on Alberta law only.

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