

Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Resident Council Fact Sheet

What is a Resident Council?

A Resident Council is an organization whose purpose is to provide residents living in a long-term care setting a form of self-government.

What do Resident Councils do?

Resident Councils give residents the opportunity to voice concerns about the quality of care and life in the home and to influence changes in rules, policies, and practices.

What are some of the benefits of a Resident Council?

For Residents, it can:

- Promote independence and opportunities for personal growth
- Provide opportunities to express talents and wisdom
- Provide a forum for healthy self-expression
- Help maintain a quality environment for healthy living

For Staff, it can:

- Provide information about concerns
- Provide creative solutions to problems
- Provide recommendations for programs or policies that would benefit residents
- Provide a forum for constructive exchange of information

For both Residents and Homes, it can:

- Provide open lines of communication between residents and staff
- Encourage a good working relationship between residents and staff
- Help solve problems before they become major issues
- Improve resident satisfaction and make a difference in the life of a home

A resident of a long-term care facility has the right to participate in decisions that affect the resident's life. The facility must listen to the views and act upon grievances and recommendations of residents concerning proposed policy and operational decisions affecting resident care and life in the facility.

For more information contact: Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
1-800-282-1206
elderrights@age.state.oh.us

