

STATE OF MONTANA

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Dear Guardians, Families and Durable Power of Attorney's

The Mental Health Nursing Care Center is strongly committed to prohibiting any type of abuse, exploitation, mistreatment and/or neglect of any resident. The resident has the right to be free from verbal, sexual, physical and mental abuse, corporal punishment and involuntary seclusion. You have the right to be educated as what any form of abuse or neglect means.

Abuse: shall be defined as the willful infliction of injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation, or punishment with resulting physical harm, pain or mental anguish. This also includes the deprivation by an individual or caretaker, of goods or services that are necessary to attain or maintain physical, mental and psychosocial well being. This presumes that instances of abuse of all residents, even those in a coma, cause physical harm or pain or mental anguish.

Verbal Abuse: is defined as the use of oral, written or gestured language that willfully includes disparaging and derogatory terms to residents or their families or within their hearing distance regardless of their age, ability to comprehend or disability. Examples of verbal abuse include, but are not limited to threats of harm, saying things to frighten a resident, such as telling a resident that he/she will never be able to see his/her family again.

Sexual Abuse: includes but is not limited to, sexual harassment, sexual coercion or sexual assault.

Physical Abuse: includes hitting, slapping, pinching and kicking. It also includes controlling behavior through corporal punishment.

Mental Abuse: includes but is not limited to, humiliation, harassment and threats of punishment or deprivation.

Involuntary Seclusion: is defined as separation of a resident from other residents or from his/her room or confinement to his/her room (with or without roommates) against the resident's will or the will of the resident's legal representative. Emergency or short term monitored separation from other residents will not be considered involuntary seclusion and may be permitted if used for limited periods of time as a therapeutic intervention to reduce agitation until professional staff can develop a plan of care to meet the resident's need.

Neglect: means failure to provide goods and services necessary to avoid physical harm, mental anguish or mental illness.

Misappropriation of Resident Property: means the deliberate misplacement, exploitation or wrongful, temporary or permanent use of a resident's belongings or money without the resident's consent.

If you have any concerns about any of these forms of abuse or neglect, please contact the resident's social worker. We are committed to providing the best care possible to the residents of our facility.