|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| What is a Family Council? | | |
|  |  |  |
|  | | |

**Join, Start and Support a Family Council at your loved one’s facility!**

If you are interested in establishing a Family Council or joining an existing one at your loved one’s facility, please complete the attached form and give it to your Facility’s Administrator.

Family members in a long-term care facility can join together to form a united consumer voice which can communicate concerns to facility administrators and work towards resolutions and improvements by forming an independent Family Council. While Federal Law specifically references “family” of residents, close friends of residents can and should be encouraged to play an active role in Family Councils as well.

If no Family Council exists, join with other family members to form one. Begin by contacting your facility’s Administrator.

**Family Council Rights:**

* Families have the right to organize and participate in a Family Council.
* Meetings may be held virtually or at another location the Facility should provide a Family Council with a private space to hold meetings on site alternatively you may hold meeting virtually or at an off-side location.
* The Facility must notify family members of upcoming meetings in a timely fashion.
* Staff, Residents or special guests may attend meetings by invitation.
* The Facility must provide a designated staff person, approved by the family council, responsible for providing assistance and responding to written requests that result from Council meetings.
* When a Family Council exists, the facility must listen and act upon grievances and recommendations concerning proposed policy and operational decisions affecting resident care and life in the facility.
* The Facility must be able to demonstrate their response and rationale for such response.

Together We Can Make a Difference!

*“The support I receive and information that I learn participating in the family Council is very helpful. It makes me feel better about having a loved one in a nursing home, to the extent that there is such a thing. It helps me interact better with staff. Most importantly, I believe it enhances the care that my loved one receives. I am very grateful that we have a family Council at the nursing home – Eileen*

*“As co-chair of the Family Council for a large skilled nursing facility in Greenwich, CT I recognize that the decision to move a loved one to a home is one of life's most difficult and lonely challenges.  It is often extremely hard for some of our best friends, and even other family members, to relate to this.  However, the chance to connect with other family council members who truly share these experiences makes the journey more bearable." - Sheilah*

**Questions - The CT Statewide Family Council**

[**ctswfamilycouncil@gmail.com**](mailto:ctswfamilycouncil@gmail.com)

<https://theconsumervoice.org/issues/family/family-council-center>