

Sexual Rights At A Home For Older Adults*

Directions: The Hebrew Home for the Aged in Riverdale, New York, is one of the first nursing homes to address senior sexuality in a positive and comprehensive way. Discuss each of their policies below, and answer the questions that follow.

- *Does our agency currently offer this right to residents?*
- *Do I approve of residents having this right?*
- *What are my concerns about this right/policy?*
-

Policy #1

Our residents have the right to seek out and engage in sexual expression.

Our agency offers this right for our residents. Yes No Not sure
I approve of our residents having this right. Yes No Not sure
My concerns about this right, or about our agency policy are:

Policy #2

Sexual expression may be between or among residents, or may include visitors. Acts involving minors, those that are not consensual, and acts between people who are cognitively impaired are not allowed. Sexual expression may not impact negatively on the resident community as a whole through public display. Any act that might transmit a sexually transmitted infection is prohibited.

Our agency offers this right for our residents. Yes No Not sure
I approve of our residents having this right. Yes No Not sure
My concerns about this right, or about our agency policy are:

Sexual Rights At A Home For Older Adults*

Policy #3

Residents have the right to access and/or obtain, for private use, materials with legal but sexually explicit content: books, magazines, film, videos, pictures, or drawings.

Our agency offers this right for our residents. Yes No Not sure

I approve of our residents having this right. Yes No Not sure

My concerns about this right, or about our agency policy are:

Policy #4

To the extent possible, residents have the right of access to facilities, most notably private space, in support of sexual expression.

Our agency offers this right for our residents. Yes No Not sure

I approve of our residents having this right. Yes No Not sure

My concerns about this right, or about our agency policy are:

*Riverdale's policy was reported in Richards, D. (2002). "New York Nursing Home Sets Policy, Precedent for Sexually Active Residents," *Contemporary Sexuality*, 36(9):7.