

7 THINGS WE NEED WHEN ENTERING INTO AMERICAN HEALTHCARE

By Chaplain Paul Vescio April 9 2021

First and foremost, we need to bring our Bibles with us. Reading and studying the word of God while being confined to a health care facility greatly helps in keeping a positive state of mind and it helps to keep our focus on God and in so doing strengthens our faith and fills us with peace and hope in helping us to get through the day.

2nd We need a strong well informed health care advocate being by our side at all times as in a close trusted friend or family member. Have your cell phone with charger and or tablet with your loved ones so you can face time. This will give you the ability to monitor the situation when you are not on sight. If this pandemic has taught us anything it's that a contract needs to be signed when we first enter into a healthcare facility ensuring that we are allowed to visit our loved ones no matter what the circumstances are otherwise if at all possible keep your family member home as long as possible, it's better to die in peace then to be subjected to some of the horrible conditions that I've personally witnessed.

3rd Know who the Ombudsman is for that particular health care facility, have their contact information available, tell the healthcare facility that you or someone you love is being confined to that you know how the system works, you know who the Ombudsman is and what their function is and you will not hesitate to contact them if you see or find out about any neglect, abuse or mistreatment of any kind and that it will not be tolerated. Google, what are the functions of an Ombudsman in a healthcare facility and learn what your rights are in American healthcare.

4th learn what the Licensing Department and the Surveyors do in enforcing the rules and making sure that the health care facilities abide by the Health and Human Services Guidelines. The Arizona licensing Department for Long Term Care Facilities and Hospitals is the Department that oversees the regulations in these facilities, if the facilities are out of compliance it is our responsibility as patients and family members to contact them and file a complaint so that the situation can be corrected in a timely manner. The days for hoping things will get better are

long past it's now time for real action and these are the tools that we are to use in order to protect our loved ones who are suffering in American healthcare.

5th Know who the social worker is and what their function is, explain to them that you know your loved ones rights and know how to enforce them through the Ombudsman Department and through the Long Term Care and Hospital Licensing Department. It's best to be the social worker's friend and not an enemy show them kindness and respect but stand your ground.

6th make sure your loved one is being fed healthy foods and receiving if possible depending on their illness adequate levels of vitamin C and vitamin D. Vitamin C and vitamin D and a healthy diet helps to boost our immune system and helps us to have a healthy and positive state of mind.

7th Google Health and Human Services Guidelines for Long Term Care and Hospital visitation. Each state has their own guidelines, in our case Google Arizona Health and Human Services Guidelines for Long Term Care and Hospital Visitation, study these guidelines, learn them, print them out, have them with you, make sure that the health care facility knows that you're well aware of these guidelines and rules and how to enforce them. These guidelines and rules change regularly so you have to keep up to date with the updated guidelines. If our loved ones are not getting the maximum care and attention and are being mistreated and neglected or even abused and or the healthcare facility is not in compliance with the guidelines then the Ombudsman is called in, if they still are not in compliance then the licensing Department is called and the state surveyor goes out on site to show them that they are not in compliance and that they will be heavily fined if they do not fall into compliance. These are just some of the tools that help to ensure that our loved ones are cared for properly, there is an old saying,

If we are educated we are equals and if not we are victims.

There can be nothing truer about this statement when entering into American healthcare. The sad fact is, if we go in like naive little children we will be led like sheep to the slaughter for profit and greed'

The number 7 in the Bible is a number that means completion, perfection, fullness, abundance, and rest and if we add compassion, encouragement, comfort and love at a cost that doesn't place our families into poverty is how American

healthcare should and can be...Amen John 14:27

<https://azdhs.gov/documents/licensing/residential-facilities/congregate-visitation.pdf>