

COMPLAINTS ABOUT YOUR CARE IN HOSPITALS AND OTHER HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

You may not always be satisfied with the care you receive in a hospital or other health care facility. If you are unhappy with the care you have received, there are a number of ways you can file a complaint, as described below.

WHERE CAN I FILE A COMPLAINT IF I GET INADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE AT A HOSPITAL?

You can file a complaint with the **New York State Department of Health's Centralized Hospital Intake program** about your **hospital or health care facility** if you experience:

- Medication issues;
- Delay in nursing care;
- Failure to address a change in your condition in a timely manner;
- Concern with care provided by staff;
- Safety and wellness issues;
- Housekeeping and maintenance issues; and
- Admission or discharge issues.

You can file a complaint with the Centralized Hospital Intake by calling 1-800-804-5447. You may also use the complaint form available at http://www.health.ny.gov/forms/doh-4299.pdf. Complete the form and mail it to:

New York State Department of Health Centralized Hospital Intake Program Mailstop: CA/DCS Empire State Plaza Albany, NY 12237

Instructions for completing the form are available at:

https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/doctors/conduct/complaint form instructions.htm.

WHERE CAN I FILE A COMPLAINT IF MY DOCTOR DISCRIMINATES AGAINST ME?

If you experience discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, gender, or disability, you can file a complaint with the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Office for Civil Rights.** More information on the HHS complaint process is available at http://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/filing-a-complaint/index.html.

What if the Hospital Discloses My Private Health Information?

If your medical provider discloses your private health information when he or she is not authorized or required to do so by law, you can report it to **the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**. More information on the HHS complaint process is available at http://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/filing-a-complaint/index.html.

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DISCLAIMER:

This information sheet is intended to give basic information on complaints about hospitals. Disability Rights New York accepts no liability for the content of this document, or for the consequences of any actions taken on the basis of the information provided. For more information, see the New York Department of Health website at http://www.health.ny.gov/facilities/hospital/complaint_form.htm.

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