

Janel Worley:

They really should feel like they're at home and that they have the same rights as they would if they were not living in a community.

The resident, wherever they're located is their home. So if they are in a skilled nursing facility or if they are in assisted living, that is their home and they have the right to eat when they want to, bathe when they want to. Unfortunately, there's normally schedules that are set up in these facilities. The biggest factor is safety, making sure that they're taken care of in a safe fashion. A lot of times they may go to visit a loved one and they're acting strange or possibly they're withdrawn. And so that's a good indication that something might be happening at the facility or the community. I would want to go ahead and set up a care plan to discuss what is going on with the client. Possibly the family doesn't live locally so I step into the care plan and try to understand what's going on to relay the information and then try to come up with a solution if there is an actual problem. Communication is the key, no matter where the client lives, whether it's at home and with their physician or with other family members. Communication is the key.

Being that I worked at a skilled nursing facility, I know the importance and the ins and outs of what needs to happen, which gives me the advantage to help our client.