

## As a Volunteer Advocate you will:

- Enhance the quality of life of nursing home residents;
- Provide information to residents and their families about their rights, as established by law;
- Prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation;
- Listen to residents' concerns;
- Resolve problems for residents;
- Empower residents to speak for themselves.



New Jersey Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman P.O. Box 852 Trenton, NJ 08625-0852

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### VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES

Needed for Nursing Homes

VISIT OUR
WEBSITE FOR MORE
INFORMATION



### **Get Started**

#### **Contact Us!**

Call the Volunteer Advocate Program at **1-877-582-6995**, press option **#2**, or apply online at **www.nj.gov/ltco** or email **volunteer@ltco.nj.gov**. We will be happy to speak with you regarding the program, as well as answer any questions you may have.

#### **Complete the Application**

Prospective Advocates must complete an online application, participate in an interview, provide references, and consent to a criminal background check.



# 3

#### **Get Trained**

Virtual trainings are conducted on an ongoing basis and include 36 hours of instruction.

#### **Shadow Another Advocate**

Advocates in training shadow an existing volunteer to gain hands-on experience in a long-term care setting.





#### **Start Advocating**

Once training is complete, State Certified Volunteer Advocates begin their new role at a local nursing home where they visit a minimum of four hours a week. Volunteer Advocates attend quarterly meetings as part of their continuing education.





The New Jersey Long-Term Care
Ombudsman Volunteer Advocate Program
helps promote the health, safety, and welfare
of residents who live in nursing homes.
Advocates help protect residents' rights and
ensure quality of care by making regular visits
to a local nursing home. Advocates take on a
non-adversarial role to help resolve residents'
concerns as close to the bedside as possible.
More than half of all residents have no living
relatives, or regular visitors.

Residents may require Ombudsman services to assure them of their rights, since residents are not always aware of their rights, or cannot assert them. It is the philosophy of the Ombudsman program that the presence of a Volunteer Advocate helps to prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation of the residents in long-term care facilities.

- NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
- FREE TRAINING
- \* REWARDING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY