

### *Fearing the Administrator*

The nursing home failed to ensure: a. residents who were not a safety or elopement risk were allowed to go outside unsupervised for six residents (B, C, D, E, F and G); b. seven residents (B, C, D, E, F, G, H) were able to communicate with the Administrator without being verbally degraded and threatened with discharge, which resulted in the residents being fearful and feeling like they live in a prison.

The change in Smoking Policy indicated: “All residents who smoke will be on supervised smoking. There will no longer be individual times for any residents.” A written statement from the Administrator indicated, “In good conscious, I cannot allow residents to keep lighters on their person and smoke where they like, as this may put all residents’ safety at risk.”

The following descriptions pertain to a select number of residents – all assessed to not be at risk of wandering and elopement – who expressed concerns regarding the change in the smoking policy:

Resident F who was cognitively intact (based on BIMS assessment) indicated that she used to be able to go outside to the secured patio/garden area whenever she wished to smoke, get fresh air, enjoy the garden, and look at the sky. She has done nothing to cause the loss of her independent access to the patio/garden area, and there was a camera and alert button if she needed assistance. This made her feel her independence, rights, and dignity were being demeaned and made her feel more hopeless about her life.

Resident G who had moderate cognitive impairment (based on BIMS assessment) stated that the new policy made him feel “like he was a child being punished for something,” that the nursing home was run like a prison, and that the one independent thing he really enjoyed was taken away from him.

Resident C who was cognitively intact (based on BIMS assessment) stated, the resident spent time in prison and, “I don’t think I should be made to feel like I am in jail again.” He/she said, “I’ve tried to talk to her [Administrator] about my concerns and she has threatened to kick me out seven or eight times.”

The Social Services Director indicated that she knew of no safety reasons that would prevent residents B, C, D, E, F and G from being able to have unsupervised access to the patio/garden area. These residents have been assessed to be non-risk for smoking and non-risk for elopement.

During confidential interviews, the residents stated that they were afraid of retaliation from the Administrator if they speak out. In addition, staff reported that they are not able to honestly tell the corporate staff their concerns out of fear of retaliation. During an interview, the Interim Administrator indicated his investigation was completed and the Administrator’s employment was terminated.

Name of Nursing Home	Core of Bedford / Provider ID: 155388
Address	514 E. 16 <sup>th</sup> Street, Bedford, Indiana
Date investigation completed	May 5, 2019
Type of deficiency issued	*F561 – Self Determination **F600 – Freedom from Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation
Severity level	*Minimal Harm or Potential for Actual Harm **Actual Harm
Overall Quality Star Rating: 3; Staffing Rating: 1	

Investigation report: <https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare/inspections/pdf/nursing-home/155388/health/standard?date=2019-05-05>