

Legal & Ethical Responsibilities Vocabulary

1. **Abuse** Any care that results in physical harm, pain, or mental anguish.
2. **Advance Directives** Also known as legal directives, are legal documents that allow individuals to state what medical treatment they want or do not want in the event that they become incapacitated and are unable to express their wishes concerning medical care.
3. **Agent** A person working under the employer.
4. **Assault and Battery** Assault includes a threat or attempt to injure and battery includes the unlawful touching of another person without consent.
5. **Civil Law** Focuses on the legal relationships between people and the protection of the person's rights; in health care deals with torts and contracts.
6. **Confidentiality** Information about the patient must remain private and can be shared only with members of the patient's health care team.
7. **Contract** An arrangement between two or more parties.
8. **Contracts** Obligations that are understood without verbally expressed terms.
9. **Criminal Law** Focuses on behavior known as crime; deals with the wrongs against a person, property, or society
10. **Defamation** Occurs when false statements either cause a person to be ridiculed or damage the person's reputation.
11. **Designation of Health Care Surrogate** Also called a Durable power of Attorney (POA) for Health Care, is a document that permits an individual (known as a principal) to appoint another person (known as an agent) to make any decision regarding health care if the principal should become unable to make decisions.
12. **Durable Power of Attorney** Is a document that permits an individual (known as a principal) to appoint another person (known as an agent) to make any decision regarding health care if the principal should become unable to make decisions.
13. **Ethics** A set of principals relating to what is morally right or wrong.
14. **Expressed Contracts** Contracts stated in distinct and clear language, either orally or in writing.
15. **False Imprisonment** Refers to restrain an individual or restricting an individual's freedom.
16. **Health Care Records** Records that contain information about the care provided to the patient.
17. **Informed Consent** Permission granted voluntarily by a person who is of sound mind after the procedure and all risks have been explained in terms the person can understand.
18. **Invasion of Privacy** Unnecessarily exposing an individual or revealing personal information about an individual without that person's consent.

- 19. **Legal** Responsibilities authorized or based on law.
- 20. **Legal disability** A person who does not have the legal capacity to form a contract.
- 21. **Libel** Written incorrect information given out in error
- 22. **Living Wills** Documents that allow individuals to state what measures should or should not be taken to prolong life when their conditions are terminal.
Can be interpreted as "bad practice"; commonly called "professional negligence"; The failure of a professional to use the degree of skill and learning commonly expected in that individual's profession, resulting in injury, loss, or damage to the person receiving care.
- 23. **Malpractice**
- 24. **Negligence** Failure to give care that is normally expected of a person in a particular position, resulting in injury to another person.
- 25. **Patient's Bill of Rights** Patients' rights that The American Hospital Association has affirmed that is recognized and honored by many health care facilities.
- 26. **Patient Self-Determination Act (PSDA)** A federal law of 1990, that mandates that all health care facilities receiving any type of federal aid, complies with certain requirements it ensures that patients are informed of their rights and have the opportunity to determine the care they will receive.
- 27. **Patients Rights** Factors of care that patients can expect to receive.
- 28. **Privilege Communication** Comprise all information given to health care personnel by a patient and is kept confidential by law.
- 29. **Resident's Bill of Rights** Residents in long-term care facilities are guaranteed certain rights under the (OBRA- Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act) of 1987.
- 30. **Slander** Spoken incorrect information given out in error
- 31. **Tort** A wrongful act that does not involve a contract.