

## RESOURCE:

### Checklist of Legal Rights for Vulnerable Adults

This checklist provides an overview of fundamental legal rights for vulnerable adults in Washington State. Families and caregivers can use this guide to ensure their loved ones receive proper care and are protected from abuse or neglect.

#### 1. The Right to Safety and Dignity

- Live free from physical, emotional, and financial abuse or neglect
- Be treated with respect and dignity in all settings
- Reside in a clean, safe, and well-maintained environment

#### 2. The Right to Make Decisions About Their Care

- Participate in decisions regarding medical treatment and daily care
- Create and update advance directives or living wills
- Choose or refuse care providers and services
- Manage personal finances unless legally determined otherwise

#### 3. The Right to Privacy and Confidentiality

- Keep medical and personal information confidential
- Communicate privately with family, friends, and legal representatives
- Have access to personal records and the ability to request corrections

#### 4. The Right to Advocacy and Support Services

- Access independent advocacy groups such as the Long-Term Care Ombudsman

- File complaints about care without fear of retaliation
- Receive visits from family, friends, and support organizations
- Obtain legal representation when necessary

## 5. The Right to Quality Medical Care

- Receive adequate medical treatment and medication as prescribed
- Be informed of health conditions, treatment options, and risks
- Have access to mental health services and social support
- Refuse medical treatment if desired

## 6. The Right to Legal Protection and Recourse

- Report suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation without retaliation
- Receive assistance from Washington Adult Protective Services (APS)
- Pursue legal action against caregivers or facilities for violations of rights
- Have cases investigated promptly by the appropriate authorities

## What to Do if Rights Are Violated

If you suspect that a vulnerable adult's rights are being violated:

- ♦ **Document** signs of abuse, neglect, or mistreatment
- ♦ **Report** concerns to Adult Protective Services or the Long-Term Care Ombudsman
- ♦ **Seek legal guidance** to understand available options for protecting your loved one

For legal assistance, contact **Ron Meyers and Associates** today for a consultation.