

1. Formal Policy Template

Policy: Legacy Family Member Participation

Purpose

To provide clear guidance on the inclusion of legacy family members—those whose loved one has passed while in care—within the Family Council, ensuring their participation aligns with the Council’s purpose, values, and governance.

Policy Statement

The Family Council recognizes the value of legacy family members and supports their continued involvement in a manner determined by the Council. Consistent with guidance from Independent Long-Term Care Councils Association of BC and vision of the Ministry of Health, membership in a Family Council does not automatically end upon the death of a resident.

The decision to include or retain legacy members rests solely with the Family Council as an autonomous, self-governing body.

Definitions

Legacy Family Member: A family member or friend of a resident who has passed away and who continues to participate in the Family Council.

Role and Status

- Legacy members may participate in a way that the family council approves
 - Roles may include Executive, Advisor, Mentor, Member Emeritus, Past Executive, or other titles as defined by the Council
 - Legacy members may contribute to discussions, initiatives, leadership and mentorship
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Guiding Principles

The inclusion of legacy members is guided by the following principles:

- **Autonomy:** The Family Council determines its own membership
- **Respect:** All members contribute in a constructive and respectful manner

- **Continuity:** Knowledge and experience are preserved and shared
 - **Collaboration:** Participation supports positive engagement with care home staff
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Benefits of Legacy Participation

Legacy members may:

- Provide historical knowledge and continuity
 - Mentor new members and emerging leaders
 - Support advocacy efforts to improve quality of life
 - Contribute to a supportive community for families
 - Lead the council for a period agreed upon by the other council leaders
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Council Authority

- The Family Council may include provisions for legacy membership within its Terms of Reference
 - Care home licensees, operators, or staff do not have authority to deny participation where permitted by the Council
 - The Council may determine the duration and nature of legacy involvement
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Expectations and Conduct

Legacy members are expected to:

- Adhere to the Council's Code of Conduct
 - Contribute constructively and respectfully
 - Support the Council's purpose and collaborative approach
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Review

This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure alignment with Council needs and best practices