



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ENSURE RIGHTS OF NURSING HOME RESIDENTS *Ombudsman Program Advocates For Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities*

The County's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, which is coordinated through the Health and Human Services Agency's Aging and Independence Services, seeks volunteers to help safeguard the rights of residents in nursing homes and board and care facilities. A free training course for volunteer ombudsmen will begin in October.

Ombudsman volunteers advocate for the quality of life and quality of care for long-term care residents. They also maintain a regular presence in more than 650 skilled nursing facilities and residential care facilities for the elderly in San Diego County.

Volunteers must successfully complete a 40-hour training course and be available five hours per week to be recommended for state certification as a Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

Several training courses will be held between Oct. 13 and Nov. 14, at the County's *Training and Development* office, 5201 Ruffin Road, Suite G, San Diego, CA 92123.

To register for the training or to obtain additional information, call (858) 560-2507 or toll-free at (800) 640-4661.

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