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The Illinois Election Integrity Program Team
(a project of Illinois Conservative Union)
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Dear Administrator,

Illinois' response to Covid-19 has complicated the voting process with emergency legislation for the conduct of the 2020 Election. We are aware that a primary component of your job is protecting each resident's safety and ensuring the observance of legal mandates. This includes monitoring access to your facility by friends, family members and/or primary caregivers.

We are a non-profit, non-partisan Illinois Bona Fide State Civic Organization. Our mission includes the fair, accurate and legal conduct of elections. We take that mission very seriously. We are currently plaintiffs in *ICU v. Illinois* (1:20-cv-05542, US District Court, Northern District of Illinois), a lawsuit to ensure the State of Illinois complies with federal law.

Compliance with the recent changes in Illinois election law will require diligence by many parties, including many in positions like your own.

There are special concerns regarding nursing home residents. Among these are residents who need assistance in voting and may be "helped" to vote for the party of the person "helping" him or her.

Illinois law mandates how such assistance is to be rendered. Two examples:

(10 ILCS 5/19-4) If the vote by mail ballot envelope indicates that the voter was assisted in casting the ballot, the name of the person so assisting shall be included on the list.

And

(10 ILCS 5/17-14) Additionally, the person providing the assistance shall sign an oath, swearing not to influence the voter's choice of candidates, party, or votes in relation to any question on the ballot and to cast the ballot as directed by the voter.

Please take the following into consideration,

1. By law, individuals who are "*non compos mentis*" may not vote.
2. Likewise, non-citizens are not eligible voters.
3. Please ensure that residents who you know are not eligible voters are not offered Vote by Mail ballots or assisted in voting in person.
4. If you have received complaints from relatives of residents in the past, please consider their comments in your plans for this year.
5. If your local Election Authority will be providing pairs of judges to assist with voting this year, as they may have done in previous elections, work with them.
6. If facility staff will be assisting residents, it is wise to have a second staff member observe.
7. Help in voting has frequently been offered by a single political party. This raises questions, when representatives of both political parties are not present to observe the process.

Nursing homes and residents are currently protected/governed by many rules. Because Covid-19 may prevent access even by family members, the temptation for fraudulent interference with a resident's vote can be greater.

It is important that you are vigilant of anyone trying to improperly assist your residents or meddle with their vote by mail process. If you observe anything that may appear questionable, please call your respective election authority.

If it would be helpful to you, we will be glad to email the detailed statutes pertaining to voting in senior care facilities. You can email us at our Election Integrity Program email address: info@ieip.org. We thank you for your consideration. Feel free to contact our office if you have questions.

Sincerely,

The Illinois Election Integrity Program Team
(a project of Illinois Conservative Union)

Co-chairs: Jan Shaw and Loretta Savee