

What To Do & Not To Do When Holding Religious Services In A Nursing Home

What You SHOULD NOT Do While Serving In A Nursing Home

1. Don't cross over the line into Nursing Service.
2. Don't tell aides or nurses what to do.
3. Keep medical opinions to yourself.
4. Don't render any kind of physical service such as getting a resident out of or into bed or a wheelchair, taking them to the bathroom, or dressing them.
5. Don't enter closed doors without knocking.
6. Don't take residents out of the facility without proper authorization.
7. Don't take money from a resident or take up an offering in a religious service.
8. Don't speak disparagingly of any denomination or faith.
9. Don't change the times, type, or personnel of a service without consulting the Activity Director of the facility.
10. Don't be alone in a closed room with residents of the opposite sex. Be wary of situations that could be misunderstood and avoid them.
11. DO NOT bring medicines of ANY kind.

What You CAN Do While Serving In A Nursing Home

1. Listen, Listen, Listen!
2. Be sure to arrive at the nursing home in time to announce the service so that all the residents are reminded and have time to prepare.
3. Be sure to bring help so that they may assist you in bringing residents to the service and for returning them to their rooms after services.
4. Make sure Communion is served on a regular basis.
5. Make sure that scripture is read in the service so that residents who can't read may hear the Word.
6. Ask yourself the question, "Does this service feed me spiritually?" If it does, then you are meeting the spiritual needs of the residents.
7. Take into account the varied religious backgrounds of the residents. Tailor your services to include some of the styles and practices of these denominations.
8. Bring special guest speakers and singers to add to the quality and variety of the service.
9. Have a prayer time that includes the residents' requests.
10. Save time before and after the service to talk personally with the residents.
11. Make in-room visits to those who are sick, need prayer, and want Communion but who can't attend services.
12. Leave "we visited" cards behind for families to see that someone cares. Ministry cards are available from the address below.

