

**(Rev. 135, Issued: 02-27-15, Effective: 04-27-15, Implementation: 04-27-15)**

**§483.420(a)(12) Ensure that clients have the right to retain and use appropriate personal possessions and clothing, and**

**Guidance §483.420(a)(12)**

Clients should have personal possessions and clothing which meet their needs, interests and choices.

Clients should have free access to their own possessions and clothing. When considering whether a client has free access to their personal possessions and clothing, ensure that physical limitations have been addressed.

Clients who are unable to access and use personal possessions and clothing appropriately are involved in programs to learn the necessary skills to do so.

In situations where the behavior of one or more clients in a living area prevents free access to personal possessions for each client, the facility must develop IPPs for the client with disruptive behavior. The facility must also ensure that during the implementation of this program plan

that none of the other clients have their rights infringed upon. Clients should not be without personal possessions because of the behavior of others with whom they live.

All client possessions, regardless of their apparent value to others are treated with respect for what they may represent to the client. Where those choices include socially stigmatizing materials, the facility should provide learning opportunities to make more socially appropriate choices. The facility should encourage clients to use or display possessions of his or her choice in a culturally normative manner.

If a method for identifying personal effects is used, it should be inconspicuous and in a manner that will assist the client to identify them.

"Appropriate" clothing means a supply of clothing that is sufficient, in good repair, accounts for a variety of occasions and seasons, and appropriate to age, size, gender, and level of activity. Modification or adaptation of clothing fasteners should be considered based on the needs of a client with a physical disability to become more independent.

As appropriate, each client's active treatment program maximizes opportunities for choice and self-direction with regard to choosing and shopping for clothing which enhances his or her appearance, and selecting daily clothing in accordance with age, sex and cultural norms.

Clients are permitted to keep personal clothing and possessions for their use while in the facility. Determine how the facility both ensures the safety of personal possessions while at the same time providing client access to them when the client chooses.

Clients are provided the opportunity, encouraged, and trained to use age-appropriate materials. The term "age-appropriate" refers to anything that reinforces recognition of the client as a person of a certain chronological age. Clients who choose to keep items traditionally used by children such as dolls or model cars are not an automatic citation. There must be evidence the facility is encouraging the client to use these possessions in a socially appropriate, non-stigmatizing manner. The facility's environment must be furnished with materials and activities that will enhance opportunities for growth.