

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 25

WHEREAS, a Nursing Home Ombudsman Program is currently being administered through the Office of the Governor; and

WHEREAS, the current program provides an avenue for the receipt, investigation, and resolution of complaints from older adults, developmentally disabled, and other nursing home residents; and

WHEREAS, a program is needed to provide an avenue for the receipt, investigation, and resolution of complaints from not only institutionalized persons, but also from non-institutionalized and disabled individuals, including those who may face future institutionalization; and

WHEREAS, a program is needed to identify and document significant problems encountered by the aging and disabled; and

WHEREAS, a program is needed to stimulate solutions to these problems; and

WHEREAS, providers of service to the aging and disabled, especially those involved in long-term care who encounter difficulties in interpreting their legal obligations, should be assisted; and

WHEREAS, such a program should have its principal office in the population center of the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LEE SHERMAN DREYFUS, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby order and direct that:

1. A Governor's Ombudsman Program for the Aging and Disabled is established in the Executive Office.
2. All approved positions, property and records for the Nursing Home Ombudsman Program in the Office of the Governor shall be transferred to the Governor's Ombudsman Program for the Aging and Disabled in the Governor's Office.
3. A full-time project director appointed outside the classified service shall act as an Ombudsman for the Aging and Disabled upon appointment by the Governor.
4. All staff necessary for the operation of the program shall be appointed from outside the classified service and shall be sufficient in number and qualifications to adequately serve all the functions set forth in this order.
5. The Governor's Ombudsman for the Aging and Disabled and program staff shall establish and provide an effective means for the receipt, investigation, and resolution of complaints regarding the aging and disabled, especially the institutionalized and those who may face future institutionalization.

6. The Governor's Ombudsman for the Aging and Disabled and program staff shall serve as mediators in resolving any problems or disputes related to the aging and disabled.
7. The Governor's Ombudsman for the Aging and Disabled and program staff shall promote public education and actions to resolve problems of, and improve care and services for, the aging and disabled.
8. The Governor's Ombudsman for the Aging and Disabled and program staff shall assist providers of service to the aging and disabled, especially those involved in long-term care, in complying with all appropriate laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and policies affecting their activities.
9. The Governor's Ombudsman for the Aging and Disabled and program staff shall take the appropriate actions to promote prompt, reasonable, and responsible enforcement of laws, regulations and policies intended to protect the rights and well-being of the aged and disabled, especially those who are institutionalized.
10. The Governor's Ombudsman for the Aging and Disabled shall establish a principal office in the Milwaukee metropolitan area, and shall establish other offices in such cities in Wisconsin as the Governor's Ombudsman for the Aging and Disabled deems necessary.

And further, this Executive Order revokes and supersedes Executive Order No. 22 issued July 26, 1979.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison, this 24th day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred seventy-nine.

Lee Sherman Dreyfus
 LEE SHERMAN DREYFUS
 STATE OF WISCONSIN
 RECEIVED AND FILED

By the Governor:

Vel R. Phillips
 VEL R. PHILLIPS
 Secretary of State

SEP 25 1979

VEL PHILLIPS
 SECRETARY OF STATE