THE STAFF ATTITUDES ABOUT INTIMACY AND DEMENTIA SURVEY

The following statements are intended to reveal your attitudes about intimacy and sexuality issues which arise among persons with dementia in residential care facilities. List the numbered respond that best suits your viewpoint. You do NOT have to share your responses with anyone.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree Somewhat
3. Disagree Somewhat
4. Strongly Disagree

_____ Competent and consenting residents who are married are entitled to be sexually intimate with their spouses in a private place within a care facility.

_____ Competent and consenting residents who are single are entitled to be sexually intimate with each other in a care facility.

_____ Competent and consenting residents who are married, but not to each other, are entitled to be sexually intimate with one another in a care facility.

_____ A married couple with one spouse living in the community and the other one with dementia residing in a care facility is entitled to be sexually intimate in a private place within the facility.

_____ Residents who have dementia are not capable of making sound decisions regarding participation in sexual relationships.

_____ A married couple, with one spouse living at home and one with dementia residing in a care facility, is entitled to be sexually intimate even though the one with dementia appears unable to give consent.

_____ A spouse living in the community is entitled to become intimately involved with someone else if his or her spouse has dementia and resides in a care facility.

_____ Two residents, both of whom have dementia, are entitled to an exclusive and consensual relationship but should not be sexually intimate if one of them is married to another person.

_____ Two residents, one with Alzheimer’s disease and the other who is cognitively intact, are entitled to be sexually intimate as long as they are both single and their relationship appears consensual.

_____ Two residents, both of whom are single and have dementia, are entitled to be sexually intimate if their relationship appears consensual and their family members do not object.
Two residents, both of whom are single and have dementia, are entitled to be sexually intimate if their relationship appears consensual although one confuses the other for a deceased spouse.

A resident with dementia is entitled to be sexually intimate with two different residents as long as there is no sign of coercion in these relationships.

A resident is entitled to masturbate in private as long as his or her personal safety is ensured.

Two residents who are the same sex are entitled to have a close friendship but sexual activity between them is unacceptable.

Two residents who are the same sex are entitled to be sexually intimate with one another as long as their relationship appears consensual.

Staff should provide a private place so as to allow a male and female resident to engage in sexual activity as long as both of them are cognitively intact.

Staff should provide a private place so as to allow a male and female resident to engage in sexual activity even though both of them are mildly impaired due to dementia.

If family members object to a relative with dementia having sexual relations with others, it is the duty of the staff to prevent such activity.

A resident displaying hypersexual behavior should be transferred out of the facility.

No one should interfere in the sexual lives of residents as long as no civil or criminal laws are broken.

Daniel Kuhn, 2002. Intimacy, Sexuality, and Residents with Dementia. Alzheimer’s Care Quarterly. This survey may be used without permission for noncommercial purposes.