

"Rise in the presence of the aged, and honour the face of the old man. . ."  
-Leviticus 19:32

## ***Elder Advocates Of Alberta Society (1992)***

August 8, 2016

The Honourable Ms. Sarah Hoffman, Minister of Health  
# 423 - Legislature Building  
Letter sent via facsimile - 780 415 0961

Ms. Lori Slgurdson, Minister of Seniors & Housing  
# 404 Legislature Building  
Letter sent via facsimile – 780 414 0721

*"Rape culture, however can be loosely defined as a culture wherein the dominant attitudes toward rape, facilitate, tolerate and excuse rapists."*

Supra Dwivedi

### COMPLAINT

We wish to register a strong objection to the policy of male caregivers giving personal care, perineal care to vulnerable female clients.

### DIRECTIVE

We are calling on government to issue a Directive that male caregivers, will no longer be called on to give personal care, perineal care, to vulnerable female clients.

We ask that a Directive be issued to all care facilities, private and public and mental hospitals, psychiatric wards, calling a halt to the practice.

### RELATED HISTORY

*Rape Culture* persists in our Long Term care system. In 2013, it was reported that there had been sixty complaints of sexual assaults to the Protection For Persons in Care over a period of two years. Those were complaints where someone was courageous enough to make the complaint.

Because of the numbers of complaints we receive, we believe the numbers are higher, clients and families are afraid to complain, they tell us but then are reluctant to go further.

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In rapes that were reported in Calgary Long Term care facilities, male caregivers, who were giving personal care to elderly females were charged with rape. We have recorded the following on our website in regard to one rape victim:

*“The elder also suffered some vaginal bleeding described as “similar to a menstrual period”. Other elder females on this dementia ward also suffered vaginal bleeding”.*

At the Alberta Hospital, it was reported that when the mother of a patient came on the hospital ward, she heard her 22 year old daughter screaming. The screams were coming from the shower room. When Mother came to the shower area she found her daughter standing totally naked next to the shower and a male person by himself, who was preparing to shower her. Previously, daughter, had expressed terrifying fear to her mother & family, of being showered,

Vulnerable persons detained in Care Facilities and Mental Hospitals should not have to fear sexual assault or rape. Unfortunately, presently this appears to be the situation.

Please allow us to be in response to our concerns by the 30th of August, 2016.

Thank you.

*Elder Advocates of Alberta Society (1992)*