

DC Nursing Homes: How to Report Abuse or Neglect



By [Catherine Bertram](#) - August 02, 2010

The District of Columbia Department of Health licenses and certifies health care facilities for compliance with state and federal health and safety standards. Facilities include nursing homes, hospitals, home health agencies, dialysis centers, ambulatory surgical centers, intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded, and laboratories. The Health Care Facilities Division ("HCFD") is charged with conducting regular on-site surveys to ensure health, safety, sanitation, fire, and quality of care requirements. HCFD identifies deficiencies that may affect state licensure.

The D.C. government [publishes a list of nursing home facilities in DC](#) and also has [a list of home health agencies in DC](#). A family member, friend or even the resident can [file a complaint on line](#) or can call the DC Hotline 202-442-5833.

About the author:

[Catherine Bertram](#) is board certified in civil trials and was recently nominated as a 2010 Super Lawyer for Washington, D.C. Ms. Bertram has 20 years of trial [experience](#) and is unique in that she was formerly the Director of Risk Management for Georgetown University Hospital. Ms. Bertram is a member of the bar for the U.S. Supreme Court. She is a partner with the firm and lectures regularly to lawyers and health care providers, nationally and locally, regarding patient safety, medical negligence and other related issues. She has also recently published a chapter in a surgical textbook. She can be reached by email at cbertram@reganfirm.com or by phone 202-822-1875 in her office in Washington, D.C.