

# The national fundamental values in elderly care

## –What do they mean to you?



### Living in dignity

An amendment to the Social Services Act states that elderly care personnel must help you live a dignified and comfortable life. You decide what such a life looks like to you. It is therefore important that the elderly care personnel you meet ask your opinion and discuss your wishes. Your unique personal needs should determine the type of care you receive and thereby allow you to live life according to your wishes and situation.

### Living in dignity and with a sense of well-being could mean, that:

- You are able, to the extent possible, to choose how and when you receive support.
- You are involved in the decision-making processes surrounding your care. If you wish, your immediate family can also be involved.
- You feel that the quality of care you receive is high.
- The personnel treat you kindly and with respect.
- You feel that the personnel respect your opinions and wishes. You are also able to communicate freely, either through speech or another mode of communication.
- Your privacy, integrity and life choices are respected.
- You feel safe. You decide what feeling safe means to you. It may, for example, mean that you feel secure in your own home or at ease with the type of care offered by the personnel.
- You feel that your life has meaning. This could arise from, for example, being able to live in accordance with your culture, philosophy and/or faith.

### What are fundamental values?

Fundamental values are constructed from our common beliefs regarding how we should treat each other. From an organizational perspective; fundamental values constitute a code of conduct for the personnel to follow.

## Would you like to know more?

Please

- contact the person responsible for elderly care issues in your municipality;
- ask a staff member at an elderly care organization;
- visit: [www.socialstyrelsen.se/nationellvardegrund](http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/nationellvardegrund). This website provides information about the government commissions on fundamental ethical values assigned to the National Board of Health and Welfare. You can also find more information on the legal aspects of the national fundamental values.

If you are unsatisfied with the care you have received, please contact the person responsible for elderly care issues in your municipality. Your municipality is responsible for ensuring that you receive the support you need.

## What does the law say?

The Social Services Act governs the activities of elderly care organizations. National fundamental values for elderly care were amended to this act on the 1st of January 2011 (Chapter 5, Section 4). It states that the aim of elderly care is to ensure that elderly people are able to live a dignified and comfortable life.

The Social Services Act also has a new provision which states that elderly persons should, to the extent possible, be able to choose how and when they receive support. This support can be provided either in the elderly person's home or at another easily accessible organization (Chapter 5, Section 5).

### **The national fundamental values in elderly care: What do they mean to you?**

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