

POSSESSIONS – LOST OR DAMAGED

LAW

Each patient shall... "Be permitted to use ... his or her own ... **personal articles...**"

§ 51.61(1)(q), Wis. Stats. [Emphasis added.]

DECISIONS

1. A discharged patient asked the hospital to **return his personal journal**. It **should be returned to him** since **it is his property**, whether or not the hospital considered it part of his treatment record. (Level III decision in Case No. 01-SGE-06 on 10/18/01)
2. A patient was receiving services at a Community Based Residential Facility. The patient alleged that the provider took the patient's head scarf and did not return it. Her treatment record reflected that she wore a head scarf but never mentioned that the head scarf was a problem or that it was taken by staff. The grievant did not meet her burden of proof that her scarf was taken away because she produced no evidence other than her own testimony. (Level IV decision in Case No. 15-SGE-0001 on 10/17/2016)
3. A patient accused the county of damaging his property when he lost his housing while placed at a treatment facility. The county does not assume responsibility for property when patients are hospitalized or placed in a more restrictive setting. That being said, the county attempted to retrieve the grievant's property to the best of their abilities. (Level III Grievance Decision in Case No. 20-SGE-06)

[See: "Introduction to Digest-Date Last Updated" page]