

Testimonial

Hi, my name is Sheri Mitchell. I am a social worker at Danbury Health Care Center. I feel very overwhelmed with my case load. I hardly ever take a lunch. I come on weekends and early as I can to get my work done because I don't have enough time. I can barely go the bathroom and find that I am glued to my desk with paperwork, PASRR work, MDSs, meetings, calls, constant discharge work, room changes, quarterly notes, initial social histories, Medicaid issues, and many interruptions throughout the day. I feel that I can't take any time off. I am on vacation next week and my supervisor will be the only one to handle any issues and already set work for 167 residents. When she is not here, then I have that same caseload. This job is always on my mind, even when I am on vacation or off.

I have found through the increase in short-term rehab and types of residents we have with their many social and financial issues, I cannot meet the many needs that this job requires. I have been a social worker for 13 years and this is the worst I have seen it! The job is just all-consuming and we are desperate for a solution. I do not have any over-time allowed in my department and I am on the clock. I find that I give a lot of free time due to my commitment to my facility. I also know that the job has to be completed no matter what. I am requesting that there be a change in the amount of social work hours in nursing home. I can't see this condition improving unless the state mandates the hours. Our residents will not receive the attention they need, nor will the social works stay in this field. Importance should be given to the people we take care of and the people trying to do the caring. The state of Ct asks that we provide for many needs and concerns, in turn, they should adjust for the changes in times and increase the hours so that we can meet those standards.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheri Mitchell".

Sheri Mitchell, SW