

Henri Brachfeld

VALKENPUTSTR. 19  
BORGERHOUT-ANTWERP

Borgerhout, July 30, 1975.

Rabbi LAM,  
JEWISH CENTER,  
West 86th Street (between Amsterdam Ave.  
and Columbus Ave.),  
NEW YORK.

Dear Rabbi Lam,

I am the Director of a Jewish orthodox old age home and I am faced with the following problem.

A certain number of our pensioners have acquired a squatters right to occupy rooms with two beds. They refuse to move to single rooms and also refuse to let us place an other person in their room. They claim that any change to the status quo would be detrimental to their health and may even mean the end of their life.

On the other hand, we have requests for admission from people who can no longer live in their apartments and should by right be admitted in our institution. For some of those people it is actually a matter of life and death.

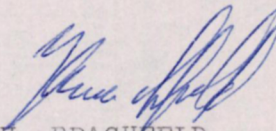
It is my opinion that the occupants should be forced to give up their acquired privileges. However, the other members of the commission believe that we have no right to force them to give up what has become a right (chasaka).

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Would you kindly let me know what is your opinion on this matter and whether one can find anything back in the halacha on this specific problem.

Sincerely yours,



H. BRACHFELD