

**(17) Nursing facility****(A) In general**

The term “nursing facility” has the meaning given such term under section 1396r(a) of this title.

**(B) Inclusion of skilled nursing facility**

The term “nursing facility” includes a skilled nursing facility (as defined in section 1395i-3(a) of this title).

**(18) Self-neglect**

The term “self-neglect” means an adult’s inability, due to physical or mental impairment or diminished capacity, to perform essential self-care tasks including—

(A) obtaining essential food, clothing, shelter, and medical care;

(B) obtaining goods and services necessary to maintain physical health, mental health, or general safety; or

(C) managing one’s own financial affairs.

**(19) Serious bodily injury****(A) In general**

The term “serious bodily injury” means an injury—

(i) involving extreme physical pain;

(ii) involving substantial risk of death;

(iii) involving protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty; or

(iv) requiring medical intervention such as surgery, hospitalization, or physical rehabilitation.

**(B) Criminal sexual abuse**

Serious bodily injury shall be considered to have occurred if the conduct causing the injury is conduct described in section 2241 (relating to aggravated sexual abuse) or 2242 (relating to sexual abuse) of title 18 or any similar offense under State law.

**(20) Social**

The term “social”, when used with respect to a service, includes adult protective services.

**(21) State legal assistance developer**

The term “State legal assistance developer” means an individual described in section 3058j of this title.

**(22) State Long-Term Care Ombudsman**

The term “State Long-Term Care Ombudsman” means the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman described in section 3058g(a)(2) of this title.

(Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XX, §2011, as added Pub. L. 111-148, title VI, §6703(a)(1)(C), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 782.)

**§ 1397j-1. General provisions****(a) Protection of privacy**

In pursuing activities under this division, the Secretary shall ensure the protection of individual health privacy consistent with the regulations promulgated under section 264(c) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 and applicable State and local privacy regulations.

**(b) Rule of construction**

Nothing in this division shall be construed to interfere with or abridge an elder’s right to practice his or her religion through reliance on prayer alone for healing when this choice—

(1) is contemporaneously expressed, either orally or in writing, with respect to a specific illness or injury which the elder has at the time of the decision by an elder who is competent at the time of the decision;

(2) is previously set forth in a living will, health care proxy, or other advance directive document that is validly executed and applied under State law; or

(3) may be unambiguously deduced from the elder’s life history.

(Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XX, §2012, as added Pub. L. 111-148, title VI, §6703(a)(1)(C), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 785.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 264(c) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, referred to in subsec. (a), is section 264(c) of Pub. L. 104-191, which is set out as a note under section 1320d-2 of this title.

## PART I—NATIONAL COORDINATION OF ELDER JUSTICE ACTIVITIES AND RESEARCH

SUBPART A—ELDER JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL AND ADVISORY BOARD ON ELDER ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND EXPLOITATION

**§ 1397k. Elder Justice Coordinating Council****(a) Establishment**

There is established within the Office of the Secretary an Elder Justice Coordinating Council (in this section referred to as the “Council”).

**(b) Membership****(1) In general**

The Council shall be composed of the following members:

(A) The Secretary (or the Secretary’s designee).

(B) The Attorney General (or the Attorney General’s designee).

(C) The head of each Federal department or agency or other governmental entity identified by the Chair referred to in subsection (d) as having responsibilities, or administering programs, relating to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

**(2) Requirement**

Each member of the Council shall be an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

**(c) Vacancies**

Any vacancy in the Council shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

**(d) Chair**

The member described in subsection (b)(1)(A) shall be Chair of the Council.

**(e) Meetings**

The Council shall meet at least 2 times per year, as determined by the Chair.

**(f) Duties****(1) In general**

The Council shall make recommendations to the Secretary for the coordination of activi-