



# BRIEFING

## COMBATIVE BEHAVIOR

Any physically aggressive act that causes or intends to cause hurt or damage to a person or object is combative behavior. Certain types of brain disorders, health conditions, psychosocial factors, environmental situations, and care giving interactions can trigger combative behavior.

### WHAT IS COMBATIVE BEHAVIOR?

- › Aggressively hampering efforts during bathing or dressing is combative behavior.
- › Combative behavior includes verbal aggression such as arguing, cursing, or threatening.
- › Fighting and endangering residents or caregivers is combative behavior.

### CAUSES FOR COMBATIVE BEHAVIOR

- › Brain disorders like dementia and Alzheimer's disease can cause combative behavior.
- › Combative behavior is possible in patients with hearing or visual impairment, acute illness, and disabilities.
- › A loss of control over bodily functions, or disturbances in body image can trigger combative behavior.
- › Psychosocial causes of combative behavior may stem from a resident feeling threatened.
- › Environmental causes of combative behavior vary from a very bright light or blaring radio.
- › Unskilled care giving acts can contribute to combative behavior.

### MANAGING COMBATIVE BEHAVIOR

- › Assess and understand the reasons for combative behavior.
- › Develop a care plan based on realistic goals to manage combative behavior.
- › Discover a past event that might trigger present aggressive actions.
- › Work closely with the entire care giving team to develop a plan to manage behavior.

**STRIVE TO SEE REALITY MIRRORED AS RESIDENTS SEE IT.**

