

Bill of Rights

The rights of persons with mental retardation and developmental disabilities include, but are not limited to:

- A. The right to be treated at all times with courtesy and respect and with full recognition of their dignity and individuality;
- B. The right to an appropriate, safe, and sanitary living environment that complies with local, state and federal standards and recognizes the persons need for privacy and independence;
- C. The right to food adequate to meet accepted standards of nutrition;
- D. The right to practice the religion of their choice or to abstain from the practice of religion;
- E. The right of timely access to appropriate medical or dental treatment;
- F. The right of access to necessary ancillary services including, but not limited to, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, and behavior modification or other psychological services;
- G. The right to receive appropriate care and treatment in the least intrusive manner;
- H. The right of privacy, including both periods of privacy and places of privacy;
- I. The right to communicate freely with persons of their choice in any reasonable manner they choose;
- J. The right to ownership and use of personal possessions so as to maintain individuality and personal dignity;
- K. The right to social interaction with members of either sex;
- L. The right of access to opportunities that enable individuals to develop their full human potential;
- M. The right to pursue vocational opportunities that will promote and enhance economic independence;
- N. The right to be treated equally as citizens under the law;
- O. The right to be free from emotional, psychological, and physical abuse;
- P. The right to participate in appropriate programs of education, training, social development and habilitation and in programs of reasonable recreation;
- Q. The right to participate in decisions that affect their lives;
- R. The right to select a parent or advocate to act in their behalf;
- S. The right to manage their personal financial affairs, based on individual ability to do so;
- T. The right to confidential treatment of all information in their personal and medical records;
- U. The right to voice grievances and recommend changes in policies and services without restraint, interference, coercion, discrimination, or reprisal;
- V. The right to be free from unnecessary chemical or physical restraints;
- W. The right to participate in the political process;
- X. The right to refuse to participate in medical, psychological. Or other research experiments.