

RIGHTS PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Alabama Department of Mental Health

YOUR RIGHTS, YOUR CIVIL, LEGAL AND PERSONAL RIGHTS

Be Informed About Your Rights:

Make sure staff inform you about your rights. If you have questions, ask your Advocate for assistance.

Due Process:

Know that your rights cannot be taken away without justification.

Habeas Corpus:

If you feel you are being held in this facility illegally, you have the right to file a petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus with the attorney of your choice.

Education

If you are school age, you have a right to receive a free and appropriate public education.

Complaints:

When you feel your rights have been violated, you should notify staff of your Advocate.

Legal Competency:

You have the right to be treated as a legally competent individual unless a court has determined you to be otherwise.

Safe and Human Environment:

You have a right to safe and humane living areas and treatment for your positive self-image and human dignity.

Freedom from Abuse:

You should not be physically or mentally abused or neglected by staff of this facility.

Privacy/Confidentiality:

Your treatment should be respected and treated with privacy.

Freedom of Movement:

You should not be unnecessarily restrained or isolated unless for your safety or the safety of others.

Personal Possessions:

You have the right to wear your own clothing and keep your personal possessions.

Communication and Social Contacts:

You have the right to have visitors, receive and send mail and telephone use.

Religion:

While in this facility, you have the right to worship in the religious faith of your choice.

Confidentiality of Records:

Records of your treatment and care should be kept confidential.

Labor:

You should not be forced to perform work for which you are not adequately compensated.

Disclosures of Services Available:

When you have been admitted, you should be informed of the cost and care and services you will receive.

Your Treatment Rights

Quality Treatment:

You have the right to receive quality treatment and care from trained professionals, regardless of your age, sex, national origin or handicap.

Individualized Treatment:

Your plan of treatment or habilitation should be designed just for you, based on your individual abilities and needs.

Participation in Treatment:

You should be allowed to actively participate in your treatment while in this facility.

Least Restrictive Conditions:

You should receive the least restrictive treatment and be placed in the least restrictive settings necessary and available for your treatment and care.

Research and Experimentation:

You have the right not to participate in research and experimental projects in this facility.

Informed Consent:

Your voluntary, written, informed consent should be obtained for treatment, care and services you receive.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Realizing that the freedom to exercise rights carries with it the need to accept some responsibilities, the following list of responsibilities is expected of each person who is in the care of the Alabama Department of Mental Health within the limits of his/her abilities:

1. To provide to the best of your knowledge, accurate and complete information regarding your medical history including: present and past illnesses, medications, hospitalizations, etc.
2. To be responsible for your actions should you refuse treatment or do not follow instructions of Mental Health/Retardation or Substance Abuse Professionals.
3. To be familiar with and follow rules and regulations governing your care and conduct.
4. To attend scheduled activities and keep appointments.
5. To be considerate of the rights of others.
6. To be respectful of the property of others and of the facility.
7. To take an active part in planning for your treatment/habilitation program and discharge.
8. To ask questions when you do not understand instruction, treatment, etc.
9. To help take care of and clean up your living area.
10. To help keep yourself clean and dressed.
11. To obey the laws which apply to all citizens.

The Alabama Department of Mental Health has a legal and ethical responsibility to safeguard the rights of individuals receiving services within its facilities and programs. Predicated on the Department's philosophy to provide quality care, treatment and habilitation, the Rights protection and Advocacy Program evidences our continued commitment to the delivery of quality services and rights protection for your citizens.

For More Information Contact:

State of Alabama Department of Mental Health

Office of Advocacy Services

RSA Union Building

100 N. Union Street

P.O. Box 301410

Montgomery, AL 36130-1410

Phone: (334) 242-3454 in Montgomery or 1-800-367-0955 outside of Montgomery