



EFE FACT SHEET – Community-Based Programs

Rights of Individuals with Developmental / Intellectual Disabilities in Community-Based Programs

You have the same rights as any other person, unless a judge has decided otherwise.

- You have many rights and you cannot be treated differently because you are a person with a disability.
- You have the right to information to help you learn about your rights and how to use those rights.
- You have the right to make as many of your own decisions as possible and to have those decisions respected.

You have the right to be free from abuse, neglect and exploitation (being taken advantage of).

- No one has the right to hurt you physically, emotionally, or sexually, to take advantage of you or to ignore your needs.

If you are abused, neglected or exploited call:
Office of the Inspector General at 1-800-368-1463

In your home or program, you have the right to:

- A clean and safe setting
- Privacy when you need it.
- Choices in your day to day activities.
- Participate in decisions about the things that affect you.
- Send and receive mail without anyone reading it unless you give permission.

- Make and receive telephone calls.
- Have visitors and a place to meet privately.
- Keep your own possessions and clothing.

You have a right to confidentiality (private information).

- Confidentiality means that information which is private, such as communication between you and your doctor or your staff, cannot be shared with anyone else unless you or your guardian say it is ok to share the information.

You have the right to use private doctors and medical professionals of your choice.

- You have a right to participate in decisions about your medical treatment as much as you can
- You have the right to choose your own doctors and other medical services. If your CILA is in a Managed Care Network, you have a right to choose your own doctors and other medical services within that network.
- You have the right to refuse medical treatment, except when doing so would hurt you or others.
- You have a right to review all of your medical records.
- You have the right to take medication yourself if your doctor evaluates you and determines that you are able to do that.
- You have the right to know the potential benefits and side effects of any medication given to you.
- You have the right to have your medications reviewed by your doctor and to see your doctor at least once every six months, or at least every three months if you are taking psychotropic medications.

You have the right to participate in preparing your individualized service and support plan together with your guardian and your team.

- You have a right to have an individualized plan that is designed to help you reach your goals.
- You have a right to have an individualized plan that includes your desires, strengths, needs, goals, and your role in putting your plan into action.
- Your services and supports cannot be taken away or reduced for exercising any of your rights.

You also have the right to contact and get help from these agencies:

- Office of Inspector General, Department of Human Services
Phone/TTY: 800.368.1463
- Guardianship and Advocacy Commission
Phone: 866.274.8023 or TTY: 866.333.3362
- Equip for Equality
Phone: 800-537-2632 or TTY: 800.610.2779



DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

Contact Equip for Equality (all services are free of charge):

800.537.2532 (voice) or 800.610.2779 (TTY)

Contactus@equipforequality.org

www.equipforequality.org

This resource material is intended as a guide for people with disabilities. Nothing written here shall be understood to be legal advice. For specific legal advice, an attorney should be consulted.

Equip for Equality, an independent nonprofit organization, is the Illinois state Protection & Advocacy System whose mission is to advance the human and civil rights of children and adults with disabilities.

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