



DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
Olympia, Washington

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TITLE: CLIENT RIGHTS POLICY 5.06

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Authority: 42 CFR 483.420 (a)  
Civil Rights Act of 1964  
Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990  
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA, Part C)  
Chapters 7.70, 11.88, 18.20, 70.122, 71A.10 RCW  
Chapters 388-78A and 388-76 WAC Group Home & Boarding Home Client Rights  
WAC 388-101-3320 Client Rights in Certified County Residential Services  
WAC 388-829A-130 Alternative Living Client Rights  
WAC 388-829C-100 Companion Home Client Rights

Reference: DSHS Administrative Policy 7.02 Equal Access to Services for Individuals with Disabilities  
DDD Policy 5.03 Client Complaints

**BACKGROUND**

Federal and state laws have been promulgated to assure that the civil rights of all people are recognized and protected. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 mandates protection of the civil rights of persons who have a developmental disability.

**PURPOSE**

This policy provides a basic summary of the civil rights of eligible clients of the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). The summary is not intended to be all inclusive.

**SCOPE**

This policy applies to all eligible division clients receiving DDD funded supports or services, division staff, and contracted service providers.

**POLICY**

- A. DDD clients have the same legal rights and responsibilities guaranteed to all other individuals by the U.S. Constitution, and federal and state law. All eligible division clients will be informed of their civil rights.
- B. All facilities, programs, contractors, and service providers receiving funding from DDD shall promote clients' rights.
- C. Violation of the civil, constitutional and/or other rights of clients is prohibited. These rights include, but are not limited to, the following:
1. ***The right to be free from discrimination***
    - No client shall be subjected to discrimination because of race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, creed, marital status, disability, or sexual orientation.
  2. ***The right to be free from harm***
    - To be free from any kind of abuse or punishment (verbal, mental, physical, and/or sexual).
    - To be free from unnecessary medication, restraints, seclusion, and restrictions.
    - To express concerns and complaints, without fear of retribution (i.e., not have someone "get even" with you).
  3. ***The right to dignity, privacy, and humane care***
    - To be treated respectfully by all division staff and contracted service providers.
    - To meet with and talk privately with friends and family members.
    - To personal privacy and confidentiality of personal and other records.
    - To have services delivered in the least restrictive environment possible.
    - To set rules in your own home and to know what rules service providers have when living in another person's house or working in someone else's business.
    - To help from an advocate.

- To decide whether or not to participate in research after the research has been explained to you, and not unless you or your legal representative give written consent for you to participate.
  - To make choices about your life.
  - To wear your clothes and hair the way you want.
4. ***The right to prompt medical care and treatment***
- To access health care that meets your needs.
  - To know what your doctor wants you to do or take and to help plan how that will happen.
5. ***The right to religious freedom and practice***
- To attend the church of your choice.
6. ***The right to receive a free appropriate public education.***
7. ***The right to social interaction and participation in community activities***
- To choose activities and schedules that meets your needs.
  - To vote and help people get elected to office.
8. ***The right to physical exercise and recreational activities***
9. ***The opportunity to benefit from employment***
- To be employed and paid a fair wage.
  - To manage your money or choose other persons to assist you.

**EXCEPTIONS**

None

**SUPERSESION**

DDD Policy 5.06  
Issued November 30, 2004

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DDD Policy 5.06  
Issued April 13, 2000

DDD Policy 5.06  
Issued August 5, 1998

DDD Policy 5.06  
Issued October 29, 1993

Policy Directive 330.0  
Issued November 1986

Approved: /s/ *Linda Rolfe*  
Director, Division of Developmental Disabilities

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