



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  
Chapters 7.70, 11.88, 18.20, 70.122, 71A.10 RCW  
Chapters 388-820, 388-825 WAC  
DSHS Administrative Policy 7.02 *Equal Access to Services for Individuals with Disabilities*  
DSHS Administrative Policy 7.04 *Non-Discrimination in Direct Client Services*  
DSHS Administrative Policy 8.01 *Clients Rights*  
Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

**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 summary of the civil rights of all people served by the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). It is not intended to be all inclusive.

**SCOPE**

This policy applies to all people served by DDD in home, facilities, or using DDD funded supports or services.

**POLICY**

All persons served by DDD must be informed of their civil rights. All facilities, programs, and contractors receiving funding from DDD must promote clients' rights. Violation of the civil,

constitutional and/or other rights of clients is prohibited. These rights include, but are not limited to:

- A. Freedom from abuse
  - 1. The right to be free from any kind of abuse or punishment (verbal, mental, physical, and/or sexual); or being sent to a place by yourself, if you don't choose to be alone.
  - 2. The right to complain and not have someone "get even" with you.
  - 3. The right to be free from unnecessary medication, restraints and restrictions.
  - 4. The right 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.
  
- B. Privacy in personal life
  - 1. The right to meet with and talk privately with your friends and family members.
  - 2. The right to personal privacy and confidentiality of your personal and other records.
  - 3. The right to set your own rules in your own home and to know what rules your providers have when you are living in another person's house or working in someone else's business.
  
- C. Options to choose
  - 1. The right to choose activities, schedules, and health care that meet your needs.
  - 2. The right to make choices about your life.
  - 3. The right to wear your clothes and hair the way you want.
  - 4. The right to vote and help people get elected to office.
  
- D. Lack of Discrimination
  - 1. The right to be free from discrimination because of your race, creed, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital status or sexual orientation.
  
- E. Information
  - 1. The right to request information regarding services that may be available from DDD.
  - 2. The right to know what your doctor wants you to do or take and to help plan how that will happen.
  
- F. Respect from Others
  - 1. The right to have your provider listen to your concerns, including those about the behavior of others.
  - 2. The right to help from an advocate.
  - 3. The right to be part of the community.

G. The Opportunity to Benefit from Working

1. The right to be paid to work, just as everyone else is.
2. The right to manage your money or choose other persons to assist you.

**EXCEPTIONS**

None.

**SUPERSESSSION**

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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