

Consumers in Mental Health Facilities

Consumers in Mental Health Facilities are guaranteed the following rights which may be denied only for Good Cause:

- *The Right to wear your own clothing*
- *The Right to keep & be allowed to spend a reasonable sum of their own money for canteen expenses/small purchases*
- *The Right to have visitors each day*
- *The Right to access a telephone, both to make & receive confidential calls & to have such calls made for them.*
- *The Right to receive unopened correspondence*

Good Cause exists only when the exercise of the right would cause injury to the individual or others...infringe on rights of others, or cause damage to facilities.



An Advocate is available to help consumers:

- **File complaints**
- **Access services and programs**
- **Understanding rights regarding:
Involuntary commitment
Guardianship
Conservatorships
Treatment in least restrictive environment**

Any person may contact the Advocate with a complaint concerning mental health issues. If a consumer is unable to make the complaint, another person may file a complaint on their behalf. Complaints are confidential.

Patients' Rights Advocate

720 Wood St. Eureka CA 95501

Phone: 707-268-2995

HUMBOLDT COUNTY

Patients' Rights Advocacy Services



Patients' Rights Advocate

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Tel: 707-268-2995

The Patients' Rights Advocate ensures the rights of mental health consumers are known and observed by:

- Providing information/education to consumers regarding their rights
- Investigating/resolving complaints about patients' rights violations
- Monitoring programs & facilities for compliance with laws
- Providing training & consultation to providers and staff

What is Advocacy?

Patients' rights advocacy are activities undertaken to protect the rights or to secure or upgrade the treatment & services of...mental health consumers. (Welf. & Inst Cod, sec 5500(a)).

Whose Interests Do Advocates Represent?

Advocates represent the consumer's interests, **as defined by the consumer**, as long as those interests are within the bounds of the law & achievable within the advocates' resources. Advocates assist adults & minors receiving mental health services voluntarily or involuntarily.


What Rights do Mental Health Consumers Have?

Persons with mental disabilities retain all rights, privileges, opportunities & responsibilities of other citizens unless specifically limited by federal or state law or regulation.



Consumers Receiving Services Have the Following Undeniable Rights:

- The Right to Humane Care
- The Right to be Free of Abuse or Neglect
- The Right to Social Activities & Recreation
- The Right to Education
- The Right to Religious Freedom & Practice
- The Right to be Free from Discrimination

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