

## NC DHHS CLIENTS' RIGHTS

It is the policy of the State of North Carolina to assure basic human rights to each client of a facility providing services under an area authority or county program. These rights include:

- The right to dignity, privacy, humane care, and freedom from mental and physical abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- The right to treatment and consent in treatment regardless of age or degree of mental illness, developmental disability, or substance abuse.
- The right to medical care and habilitation, regardless of age or degree of MH/DD/SA disability.
- The right to a written treatment plan within 30 days of intake. If you want a copy, please ask.
- The right to confidentiality except when the client (or legally responsible person) consents in writing to release information, a court compels disclosure, or a clinician believes there is an imminent danger to the health or safety of the client or another individual. A responsible professional involved in the client's treatment may deem that a disclosure is warranted and permitted or required under the provisions of NCGS 122C, Article 3. Confidential information may be provided to DOC when an inmate seen is determined to be in need of MH/DD/SA treatment. Employees/consultants/students may exchange confidential information as needed. Professionals may release confidential information to the referring physician or psychologist.
- The right to request and receive information in one's record as specified in NCGS 122C, Article 3.
- The right to be informed of potential risks and alleged benefits of the treatment choices and to consent or refuse any treatment.
- The right of any adult client to exercise all civil rights as a citizen of North Carolina.
- The right to be free of corporal punishment. Physical restraint or seclusion may be imposed only when there is imminent danger of abuse or injury to oneself or others. Search and seizure may be conducted only by a person legally responsible for the client or a law enforcement officer.
- The right to be free from unnecessary medications and for medication not to be used for punishment, discipline, or staff convenience.
- The right to contact the Governor's Advocacy Council for Persons with Disabilities (GACPD), the statewide agency to protect and advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities.
- The right to file a grievance by informing one's clinician, area program case manager, or the North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors, the North Carolina Psychology Board, or the North Carolina Social Worker's Board. The right to have the grievance and response documented in the record and submitted to the area program.

I have read and understand the above information regarding Clients' Rights.

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Client/Guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date