

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATION
Olympia, Washington

TITLE: CLIENT RIGHTS POLICY 5.06

Authority: [Civil Rights Act of 1964](#)
[Americans with Disabilities Act](#)
[Individual with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA, Part C\)](#)
[42 CFR 483.420](#) *Condition of participation: client protections*
[Chapter 11.88 RCW](#) *Guardianship*
[Chapter 70.122 RCW](#) *Natural Death Act*
[Chapter 71A RCW](#) *Developmental Disabilities*
[WAC 388-823-1095](#) *What are my rights as a DDA client?*
[WAC 388-76-10510 - 14645](#) *Adult Family Home resident rights*
[WAC 388-78A-2660 - 2690](#) *Assisted Living resident rights (formerly Boarding Homes)*
[WAC 388-101-3320 - 3330](#) *Client rights and treatment*
[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*
DDA 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 Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). The summary is not intended to be all inclusive. Refer to [WAC 388-823-1095](#) for an additional list of client rights and the other residential WACs as noted above under Authority.

SCOPE

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

DEFINITIONS

Administration means the Developmental Disabilities Administration of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS).

POLICY

- A. Clients of the DDA have the same legal rights and responsibilities guaranteed to all other individuals by the U.S. Constitution, and federal and state law. All eligible Administration clients will be informed of their civil rights.
- B. When services are offered by DDA, all clients shall receive a copy of the form, [DSHS 16-172, Your Rights and Responsibilities When You Receive Services Offered by the Aging and Disability Services Administration.](#)
- C. All facilities, programs, contractors, and service providers receiving funding from DDA shall promote clients' rights.
- D. 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, sexual orientation, or the presence of any physical, mental, or sensory disability.
 2. ***The right to be free from harm.***
 - To be free from any kind of abuse or punishment, including verbal, mental, physical, and/or sexual abuse.
 - To be free from unnecessary medication, restraints, seclusion, and restrictions.
 - To express concerns and complaints without fear of retribution.
 3. ***The right to dignity, privacy, and humane care.***

- To be treated respectfully by all Administration 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 healthcare 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 meet 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 receive a fair wage.
- To manage your money or choose other persons to assist you.

EXCEPTIONS

None

SUPERSESSSION

DDD Policy 5.06
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Approved: /s/ Donald Clintsman
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Developmental Disabilities Administration

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