

Everyone has the same rights!

The Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and DMHAS contracted providers respect your rights.

Human and Civil Rights Include:

- Freedom of speech, freedom of choice, freedom of expression.
 - Equal protections in court, voting, employment and housing.
 - Freedom from unlawful discrimination due to age, alienage, blindness, color, disability, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, ability to pay or a history of a mental health or substance use disorder.
 - Privacy and confidentiality.
 - Personal dignity and being accepted as your authentic self.
 - Equal opportunity to obtain goods and services from businesses and non-profits as everyone else.
 - Requesting reasonable modifications of a state or local government’s programs, services and activities due to a disability and requesting reasonable accommodations for employment and housing.
 - Being provided information about your treatment by your healthcare provider in the way you understand.
 - Having your Advance Directive respected by healthcare providers.
 - Authorizing an advocate of your choice even when you have a conservator of person.
 - Requesting access to your clinical records and submitting addendums in accordance with law and regulations.
 - Having your complaints addressed without retaliation.
- DMHAS and DMHAS contracted providers use the DMHAS Client Grievance Procedure to address complaints.

Other Rights Including Psychiatric Treatment Rights Include:

- Humane and dignified treatment in a respectful manner.
- Being notified of your rights by the psychiatric treatment facility.
- Having a psychiatric examination within 48 hours and physical examination within 5 days of being admitted.
- Giving informed consent to treatment, medication and medical procedures unless it is legally determined you are unable to make such decisions, or it is determined a delay would be medically harmful.
- Participating in treatment and discharge planning with or without an authorized representative.
- Services in the most integrated and least restrictive manner possible based on your clinical and safety needs.
- Freedom from restraint and seclusion except to prevent imminent physical injury to yourself and others.
- Wearing your own clothing, keeping personal possessions depending on storage space and spending your own money except when restricted in accordance with law.
- Using a public phone provided by the facility except when restricted due to clinical or safety concerns.
- Being provided writing material and postage by the facility to send and receive mail without it being intercepted or censored except when restricted due to clinical or safety concerns.
- Having visitors during scheduled visiting hours and meet privately with clergy, attorney, or paralegal.

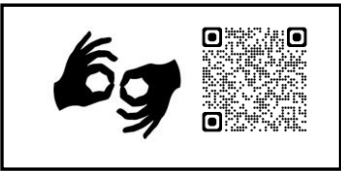
Psychiatric treatment facilities will schedule a probate court hearing where you will have legal representation if you are a voluntary patient, and the facility disagrees with your written request to leave.

Your rights can only be restricted in accordance with law, as documented in your clinical records.

Laws, regulations and court rulings protecting your rights include but are not limited to: Civil Rights Act of 1964; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act; Americans with Disabilities Act; Section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act; Federal Housing Act; Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act; Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder Patient Records (42 CFR part 2); Federal Patient Bill of Rights (42 CFR 482.13); Protection from retaliation and coercion (42 USC 12203); Advance Directives (CGS 19a-570); Connecticut Patients’ Bill of Rights (CGS 17a-540 - 17a-550); Hospital Patients’ Bill of Rights (CGS 19a-550); Human Rights (CGS 46a-58); Mental Health Bill of Rights for Deaf, Deafblind and Hard of Hearing Persons (PA 21-72); Fair Hearing Regulations (CGS 17a-451t1-t20); Advocacy Rights (Doe v. Hogan, Phoebe v Solnit); Whiting Forensic Hospital Patient Rights (Roe v. Hogan).

If you need help, contact a statewide advocacy organization.

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| • <u>Advocacy Unlimited</u> (AU) | Voice 860-505-7581 | Email: info@advocacyunlimited.org |
| • <u>Connecticut Legal Rights Project</u> (CLRP) | Voice 860-262-5030 | Email: info@CLRP.org |
| • <u>Disability Rights Connecticut</u> (DRCT) | Voice 860-422-4220 | Email: info@DisRightsCt.org |



DMHAS and DMHAS contracted providers post this notice in lobbies, inpatient units and residential programs. For copies of this notice in other formats and languages contact:

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