

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

You have a right to information about eligibility, funding priorities, available services, programs and practitioners, progress on your goals, and grievance and appeal procedures.

Information about you may not be shared unless you agree, there is a court order, or when a significant danger exists to you, others, or property.

Families have a right to receive services without relinquishing custody of a child.

We are **required by law** to report any suspected abuse of a child or vulnerable adult.

The Commissioner or the court may restrict rights for reasons of safety, security, or treatment.

In addition, you are entitled to all other rights guaranteed to all citizens under state and federal law including the rights to:

- Marry
- Vote
- Express free speech



Community Resources that may assist you in advocating for your rights:

LEGAL REPRESENTATION

Vermont Legal Aid

57 N Main St #2
Rutland, VT 05701
(802) 775-0021
vtlegalaid.org

ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Green Mountain Self-Advocates

2 Prospect St #6,
Montpelier, VT 05602
(802) 229-2600

Dream-Catchers Self-Advocates

Community Access Program
(802) 775-0828

ARC Rutland Area

128 Merchants Row #302
Rutland, VT 05701
(802) 775-1370

GUARDIANSHIP SERVICES

Office of Public Guardian

Phone: (802) 828-2143

This handbook has been designed to help you understand your rights. If you need more information or have further questions please speak to your Service Coordinator. Alternative formats of this information are available. Please ask your Service Coordinator for a format that meets your needs.



Individual Rights Handbook

Developmental Services



rmhscn.org

78 South Main Street | PO Box 222
Rutland, VT 05702-0222

Phone: (802) 775-0828 | Fax: (802) 747-7692

24 hour Crisis line: (802) 775-1000

TTY/TTD line: (800) 253-0191

RIGHTS...

Every person receiving Developmental Disabilities Services has a right to freedom from:

- Abuse (physical or psychological)
- Financial or other exploitation
- Neglect
- Retaliation for making a complaint, voicing a grievance, recommending a change in policy, or exercising a legal right

You have a right to consent, refuse, express choice and make decisions regarding:

- Your services, treatment plans, and ongoing practices
- Release of your information
- People who support you

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO:

- Privacy, dignity, respect, and confidentiality
- Communication in your primary language and primary mode of communication
- Have a comprehensive support plan including preferences and supports that you identify
- Communicate in private by mail and telephone
- Receive humane care and be free from aversive procedures, devices and treatments
- Associate with and have relationships with people of your choice regardless of gender
- Maintain contact with family
- Refuse or terminate services
- Have access to, read and challenge any information in your record
- File a written statement in the record about any part of the record with which you disagree
- The right to all legal protections and due process as an outpatient or inpatient

...AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As with most things in life, your right to do things and to have things carries with it responsibilities that you have to yourself and others. Following are some responsibilities you have:

- To treat others with consideration and respect
- To not violate the rights of others
- To respect the privacy of others
- To not hurt or harm others
- To let others express concerns and say what they are not happy about
- To assist in keeping spaces you use safe and clean
- To ask permission to use other peoples' things and to treat those things with care
- To follow the rules and regulations outlined by Community Care Network
- To provide information necessary to provide appropriate services or supports

