

3-17-76

THE RIGHTS OF MENTALLY RETARDED PERSONS

Highland Park Center embraces the U. N. Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons which affirms that:

1. The mentally retarded person has, to the maximum degree of feasibility, the same rights as other human beings.
2. The mentally retarded person has a right to proper medical care and physical therapy, and to such education, training, rehabilitation, and guidance as will enable him to develop his ability and maximum potential.
3. The mentally retarded person has a right to economic security and to a decent standard of living. He has a right to perform productive work or to engage in any other meaningful occupation to the fullest possible extent of his capabilities.
4. Whenever possible, the mentally retarded person should live with his own family or with foster parents and participate in different form of community life. The family with which he lives should receive assistance. If care in an institution becomes necessary, it should be provided in surroundings and other circumstances as close as possible to those of normal life.
5. The mentally retarded person has a right to a qualified guardian when this is required to protect his personal well-being and interests.
6. The mentally retarded person has a right to protection from exploitation, abuse, and degrading treatment. If prosecuted for any offense, he shall have a right to due process of law with full recognition being given to his degree of mental responsibility.
7. Whenever mentally retarded persons are unable, because of the severity of their handicap, to exercise all their rights in a meaningful way, or it should become necessary to restrict or deny some or denial of rights must contain proper legal safeguards against every form of abuse. This procedure must be based on an evaluation of the social capability of the mentally retarded person by qualified experts and must be subject to periodic review and to the right of appeal to higher authorities.

Adopted by U.N. 20 December 1971

THE RESIDENT' BILL OF RIGHTS

Highland Park Center recognizes the existence of the inherent rights of residents as mandated by the regulations promulgated by the Department of Public Welfare.

It is the intent of the facility to comply without reservation with these declarations as they are expressed in detail in these areas: The Right to Communicate, The Right to Free Exercise of Religion and Conscience, The Rights of Money, Personal Possessions and Personal Affairs, The Right to a Humane Physical and Psychological Environment, The Right to the Least Restrictive Environment compatible with his well-being and his treatment goals, The Right to Treatment and Release, The Right of Protection from Unapproved Procedures, and The Right of Decision over Major Treatment Procedures.

It is Highland Park Center's policy that, for residents unable to comprehend or exercise these rights individually or collectively, this Bill of Rights shall be communicated in writing to relative(s) or legal guardians, and that a copy attesting their understanding be kept with the resident's records.

I have read this statement and understand its content and meaning.

Signed _____

Relationship _____

Witness _____

Date _____