

What is the Patient Advocacy Program?

We are dedicated to ensuring the rights of mental health clients.

Mental health clients have the same legal rights afforded to every American citizen.

Information & Assistance

(619) 282-1134 or 1-800-479-2233

Fax: (619) 282-4885

www.jfssd.org/patientadvocacy

Hours: 8:00am–5:00pm, Monday–Friday



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For a copy of our Notice of Privacy Practices, please visit our website or contact us.

Patient Advocacy

Independent Clinical Review



The Patient Advocacy Program is funded by the county of San Diego



Your Rights: If you are a minor between the ages of 14 and 17 and your parents have admitted you to a private acute psychiatric facility

Independent clinical review

If you are between the ages of 14 and 17 and have been placed in a private psychiatric facility by your parent or legal guardian, you are entitled to an Independent Clinical Review.

The purpose of the Review is to decide whether you currently have a mental disorder and also to determine if the facility is the best place to help you to get better.

The staff of the hospital will inform you in writing of your right to an Independent Clinical Review. You may ask for this review at any time during the first ten [10] days after your admission to the facility.

- The Clinical Review is a private, informational meeting which is held at the facility within five days after you request it.
- You, your parent(s) or legal guardian, a patient advocate, a representative from the facility, and the reviewer (who is a psychiatrist not involved with your case) will attend.

- You may choose not to attend, in which case the patient advocate will represent your wishes. You or your advocate may question anyone who is recommending that you stay in the facility.
- If the reviewer decides that there is not enough cause to hold you, you will be released on the same day, probably back to your parents or legal guardian.
- In order for you to be kept in the facility against your wishes, the Clinical Review must show that you have a mental health problem, that further inpatient treatment is likely to help reduce the problem, and that the facility is the best setting for you at this time.

What are your rights?

The following is a list of some of your rights while in the hospital:

- To request and receive an Independent Clinical Review
- To see a patient advocate
- To wear your own clothes

- To keep your personal possessions
- To keep and be allowed to spend a reasonable sum of your own money for small purchases
- To use the phone
- To see visitors
- To have access to letter writing materials, including stamps, and to receive and send unopened mail
- To have private storage space
- To be free from excessive seclusion and restraint
- To know about the medication you are taking
- To privacy

Your rights are protected

- Your parent or guardian cannot make an agreement with the facility that you do not have these rights.
- The facility or doctor can deny some of these rights, but they must show that there is "good cause" to do so.
- If you are denied any rights, you must be told the reason and it must be written in your medical chart. Your rights must be returned to you as soon as the reason for the denial no longer exists.
- You cannot be forced or threatened to give up any of your rights as a condition of being admitted or released from the facility.

Need Assistance?
Have Questions?

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1-800-479-2233

