

## 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.**

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### Information & Assistance

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

Fax: (619) 282-4885

[www.jfssd.org/patientadvocacy](http://www.jfssd.org/patientadvocacy)

Hours: 8:00am–5:00pm, Monday–Friday



# Patient Advocacy

Roger S. Hearing

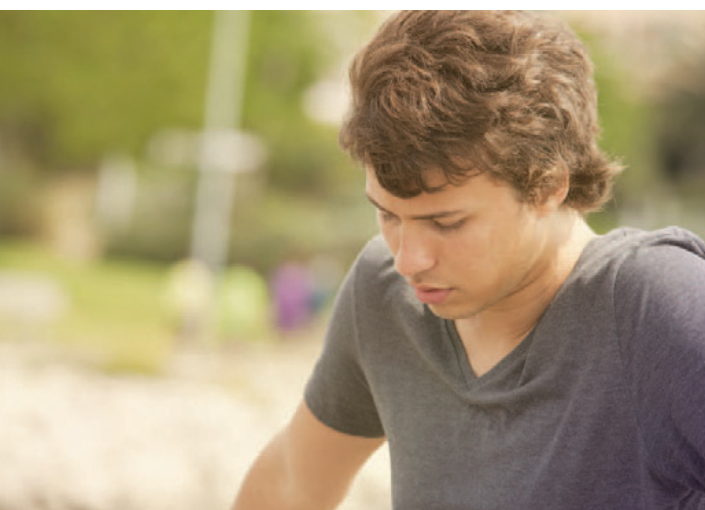


## Patient Advocacy

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



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 public acute psychiatric facility

## Roger S. Hearing

If you are between the ages of 14 and 17 and have been placed in a public psychiatric facility by your parent or legal guardian, you will have a Roger S. Hearing.

The purpose of the hearing is to decide whether the facility has legal cause to keep you in the hospital, against your wishes. This hearing is automatically arranged when your parents sign you in for treatment.

If you wish to stay in the hospital voluntarily, you may waive this hearing, and it will not take place. If you change your mind while you are still in the hospital, and you wish to contest your stay, the hearing will be arranged.

The hearing is a private, informal meeting which is held at the facility within five days after you are signed in by your parents.

This hearing will be attended by a San Diego Superior Court Hearing Officer, a patient advocate, a representative from the facility, and you. You may request your parents to attend as well. You may choose not to attend. If you do, the patient advocate will

represent your wishes on your behalf. You may question anyone who is recommending that you stay in the facility.

If the Hearing Officer 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 Hearing Officer must decide that the facility has proven that:

- You have a mental health disorder
- 24-hour locked placement is necessary
- Hospitalization is likely to help reduce the problem
- Hospitalization is the least restrictive placement, and
- The facility is in your community.

## What are your rights?

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

- To request and receive a Roger S. Hearing
- To see a Patients' Rights 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

