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

Patient Advocacy Program
For behavioral health clients residing in minors’ residential facilities
619-282-1134 | 1-800-479-2233
www.jfssd.org/patientadvocacy
For a copy of our Notice of Privacy Practices, please visit our website or contact us.
As a resident in a group home in California, you have the right to live in a safe, comfortable home with:

- Enough clothes and healthy food
- Your own place to store your things
- An allowance
- A phone that you can use to make confidential calls to contact people not in the foster care system (like friends, church members, teachers, and others), unless a judge finds that you cannot

You have the right to:

- Be treated with respect
- Go to religious services and activities of your choice
- Send and receive unopened mail (unless a judge finds that someone else can open your mail)
- Contact social workers, attorneys, probation officers, CASAs, foster youth advocates and supporters, or anyone else involved with your case
- Be informed about your placement by your social worker or probation officer
- Go to school every day and get help with school

No one can:

- Lock you in a room or building, unless you are in a community treatment facility
- Abuse you physically, sexually, or emotionally for any reason
- Look through your things, unless they have a legal reason to do so

You have health rights. You can:

- See a doctor, dentist, eye doctor, or talk to a counselor
- Refuse to take medicines, vitamins, or herbs, unless a doctor or judge finds you must
- Receive information about your sexual health in a way that you understand it, if you are 12 years old or older. This includes learning about the way sexually transmitted infections and diseases are spread and how you can prevent them, how you can prevent pregnancy, and what to do if you are pregnant

You have the right to do some things on your own. You can:

- Learn job skills right for your age
- Work, unless the law says you are too young

You have other rights too. You can:

- Go to court and talk to a judge
- See and receive a copy of your court report and your case plan
- Keep your court records private, unless the law says otherwise
- Be told by your social worker, probation officer, and/or your attorney about any changes in your case plan or placement
- Visit and contact your family members, unless a judge finds you cannot
- Participate in age-appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities such as church, school and community activities, sleep-overs with friends, scouting, and 4-H

If you feel you are being harassed or discriminated against because of your sex, race, color, religion, sexual orientation, ethnic group, ancestry, national origin, gender identity, mental or physical disability or HIV status, or for any other reason, you should call the Foster Care Ombudsman helpline (1-877-846-1602), Community Care Licensing (1-844-538-8766), or the JFS Patient Advocacy Program (1-800-479-2233).

Need Assistance? Have Questions?
619-282-1134  |  1-800-479-2233