

3634

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

February 13, 2015

Introduced by Sen. ORTT -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to creating a bill of rights for family and guardians of people with developmental disabilities that reside in residences certified or approved by the office for people with developmental disabilities

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section
2 13.04 to read as follows:
3 S 13.04 FAMILY BILL OF RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES.
4 (A) THE PRINCIPLES IN THE BILL OF RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES SET FORTH IN
5 THIS SECTION ARE DECLARED TO BE THE PUBLIC POLICY OF THE STATE.
6 (B) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:
7 (1) "QUALIFIED PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE" MEANS A SPOUSE, PARENT, ADULT
8 CHILD, ADULT SIBLING, LEGAL GUARDIAN OR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF AN
9 INDIVIDUAL WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES WHO IS RECEIVING SERVICES
10 FROM A COVERED PROVIDER.
11 (2) "COVERED PROVIDER" MEANS AND INCLUDES ANY ENTITY, PROVIDING RESI-
12 DENTIAL SERVICES OR NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES OR PROGRAMS TO ONE OR MORE
13 PERSONS WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY, THAT IS LICENSED, OPERATED OR
14 CERTIFIED BY THE OFFICE.
15 (C) IN ADDITION TO ALL OTHER RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES UNDER LAW, A QUALI-
16 FIED PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS AND PRIVI-
17 LEGES SET FORTH BELOW (THE "FAMILY BILL OF RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES") WITH
18 RESPECT TO THEIR INDIVIDUAL FAMILY MEMBERS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILI-
19 TIES.
20 "FAMILY BILL OF RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES"

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [] is old law to be omitted.

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1 A QUALIFIED PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING GENERAL-
2 LY-DESCRIBED RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES CONCERNING A FAMILY MEMBER WITH
3 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES RECEIVING SERVICES; TO:
4 BE TREATED WITH CONSIDERATION AND RESPECT.
5 PARTICIPATE IN AND PROVIDE MEANINGFUL INPUT INTO THE DEVELOPMENT,
6 REVIEW AND REVISION OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S CARE PLAN, INCLUDING PLACEMENT
7 OR TRANSFER WITHIN OR BETWEEN FACILITIES.
8 ACCESS INFORMATION REGARDING THE INDIVIDUAL'S HEALTH AND SAFETY,
9 CONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL AND STATE CONFIDENTIALITY PROTECTIONS.
10 BE NOTIFIED WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME OF ANY EVENT THAT DIRECTLY
11 IMPACTS THE INDIVIDUAL'S HEALTH AND SAFETY, CONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL AND
12 STATE CONFIDENTIALITY PROTECTIONS.
13 ACCESS INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR A QUALIFIED PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
14 TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS, WHEN APPROPRIATE, ABOUT THE INDIVIDUAL'S
15 CARE AND CARE COORDINATION.
16 FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY, INCLUDING ACCESS TO BUDGETARY INFORMATION OF
17 THE FACILITY AND INDIVIDUAL EXPENSES, CONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL AND STATE
18 CONFIDENTIALITY PROTECTIONS.
19 VISIT UNANNOUNCED.
20 BE INFORMED OF STAFFING CHANGES.
21 ACCESS A FACILITY'S FIRE AND OTHER SAFETY PLANS AND ANY INFORMATION
22 REGARDING A FACILITY'S PASSAGE OR FAILURE OF ANY SAFETY DRILLS CONDUCTED
23 BY THE FACILITY AND THE OFFICE.
24 ACCESS A FACILITY'S FOOD MENUS.
25 CHOOSE A CARE COORDINATOR.
26 CONSULT AND BE REPRESENTED BY AN INDEPENDENT ADVOCATE, MENTAL HYGIENE
27 LEGAL SERVICES OR AN ATTORNEY; AND IF SERVICES ARE PROVIDED UNDER MEDI-
28 CAID MANAGED CARE, TO HAVE A MEDICAID OMBUDSMAN.
29 BE INFORMED IN WRITING IN PLAIN LANGUAGE WITH UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION
30 ABOUT:
31 (I) THE SYSTEM OF CARE AND SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL
32 DISABILITIES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO MANAGED CARE;
33 (II) THE LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE RIGHTS OF
34 FAMILY MEMBERS AND OTHER PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES TO PARTICIPATE IN
35 DECISIONS ABOUT THE INDIVIDUAL'S LIFE AND TO ACCESS INFORMATION,
36 RECORDS, REPORTS, CARE PLANS, ETC.; AND
37 (III) THE PROCEDURES TO CHALLENGE ANY DECISION AFFECTING THE INDIVID-
38 UAL.
39 NOTHING IN THIS BILL OF RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES SHALL LIMIT ANY OTHER
40 RIGHT OR PRIVILEGE UNDER LAW. IF ANY RESIDENTIAL FACILITY OR NON-RESI-
41 DENTIAL SERVICE PROVIDER FAILS TO AFFORD THESE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES,
42 ASSISTANCE MAY BE SOUGHT FROM THE FACILITY OR PROVIDER, OR THE OFFICE.
43 (D) A QUALIFIED PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE MAY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW
44 AND APPROPRIATE DUE PROCESS, NOT EXERCISE A RIGHT OR PRIVILEGE DESCRIBED
45 IN THIS SECTION IF THE SUBJECT INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING SERVICES, WHO IS
46 COMPETENT TO DO SO, SPECIFICALLY AFFIRMS, IN A REASONABLY CONTEMPORANE-
47 OUS MANNER, THAT SUCH IDENTIFIED QUALIFIED PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
48 SHALL NOT BE AFFORDED SUCH SPECIFIC RIGHT OR PRIVILEGE. SUCH DETERMI-
49 NATION BY THE SUBJECT INDIVIDUAL SHALL BE DESCRIBED AND RECORDED IN
50 WRITING IN THE CASE FILE BY APPROPRIATE STAFF OF THE FACILITY OR SERVICE
51 PROVIDER AND A STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR SUCH DENIAL SHALL BE PROVIDED TO
52 THE QUALIFIED PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE.
53 (E) THE STATEMENT OF RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION
54 IS INTENDED TO BE A GUIDE TO THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF QUALIFIED
55 PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
56 RECEIVING RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES.

1 (F) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE READ TO LIMIT ANY OTHER RIGHTS OR
2 PRIVILEGES THAT QUALIFIED PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES MAY HAVE OR LIMIT ANY
3 ACTION OR RELIEF OTHERWISE PERMITTED BY LAW. NOTHING IN THIS SUBDIVI-
4 SION SHALL ALTER OR AFFECT ANY RIGHT OF APPEAL, FORMAL OR OTHERWISE,
5 SUCH PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE MAY HAVE CONCERNING THE DENIAL OF ANY SUCH
6 RIGHT.

7 (G) EACH PROVIDER SHALL CONSPICUOUSLY POST A COPY OF THE BILL OF
8 RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES IN A PUBLIC PLACE AT THE LOCATIONS WHERE THE
9 PROVIDER PROVIDES SERVICES.

10 (H) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL:

11 (1) POST A COPY OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES ON THE OFFICE'S
12 WEBSITE;

13 (2) MAKE COPIES OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES IN ENGLISH, AND
14 THE TOP SIX LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH SPOKEN IN THE STATE (ACCORDING
15 TO THE LATEST AVAILABLE DATA FROM THE U.S. BUREAU OF CENSUS) AVAILABLE
16 TO THE PUBLIC AND EVERY PROVIDER;

17 (3) ESTABLISH A PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM DESIGNED TO DISSEMINATE
18 INFORMATION REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION;

19 (4) INCLUDE SPECIFIC INFORMATION DETAILING THE EFFORTS OF THE COMMIS-
20 SIONER TO EFFECTUATE THIS SECTION IN THE STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
21 REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SECTION 5.07 OF THIS CHAPTER;

22 (5) ADOPT ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THIS
23 SECTION.

24 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.