

424--A

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

(PREFILED)

January 7, 2015

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Introduced by M. of A. ABINANTI, GUNTHER, OTIS, ROBERTS, PEOPLES-STOKES, RAIA, McDONALD, BICHOTTE, BARRETT -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ARROYO, CLARK, MAYER, SCHIMEL, SOLAGES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health -- reported and referred to the Committee on Codes -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

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

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

LBD03401-02-5

1 RESPECT TO THEIR INDIVIDUAL FAMILY MEMBERS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILI-  
2 TIES.

3 "FAMILY BILL OF RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES"

4 A QUALIFIED PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING GENERAL-  
5 LY-DESCRIBED RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES CONCERNING A FAMILY MEMBER WITH  
6 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES RECEIVING SERVICES; TO:

7 BE TREATED WITH CONSIDERATION AND RESPECT.

8 PARTICIPATE IN AND PROVIDE MEANINGFUL INPUT INTO THE DEVELOPMENT,  
9 REVIEW AND REVISION OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S CARE PLAN, INCLUDING PLACEMENT  
10 OR TRANSFER WITHIN OR BETWEEN FACILITIES.

11 ACCESS INFORMATION REGARDING THE INDIVIDUAL'S HEALTH AND SAFETY,  
12 CONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL AND STATE CONFIDENTIALITY PROTECTIONS.

13 BE NOTIFIED WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME OF ANY EVENT THAT DIRECTLY  
14 IMPACTS THE INDIVIDUAL'S HEALTH AND SAFETY, CONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL AND  
15 STATE CONFIDENTIALITY PROTECTIONS.

16 ACCESS INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR A QUALIFIED PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE  
17 TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS, WHEN APPROPRIATE, ABOUT THE INDIVIDUAL'S  
18 CARE AND CARE COORDINATION.

19 FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY, INCLUDING ACCESS TO BUDGETARY INFORMATION OF  
20 THE FACILITY AND INDIVIDUAL EXPENSES, CONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL AND STATE  
21 CONFIDENTIALITY PROTECTIONS.

22 VISIT UNANNOUNCED.

23 BE INFORMED OF STAFFING CHANGES.

24 ACCESS A FACILITY'S FIRE AND OTHER SAFETY PLANS AND ANY INFORMATION  
25 REGARDING A FACILITY'S PASSAGE OR FAILURE OF ANY SAFETY DRILLS CONDUCTED  
26 BY THE FACILITY AND THE OFFICE.

27 ACCESS A FACILITY'S FOOD MENUS.

28 CHOOSE A CARE COORDINATOR.

29 CONSULT AND BE REPRESENTED BY AN INDEPENDENT ADVOCATE, MENTAL HYGIENE  
30 LEGAL SERVICES OR AN ATTORNEY; AND IF SERVICES ARE PROVIDED UNDER MEDI-  
31 CAID MANAGED CARE, TO HAVE A MEDICAID OMBUDSMAN.

32 BE INFORMED IN WRITING IN PLAIN LANGUAGE WITH UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION  
33 ABOUT:

34 (I) THE SYSTEM OF CARE AND SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL  
35 DISABILITIES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO MANAGED CARE;

36 (II) THE LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE RIGHTS OF  
37 FAMILY MEMBERS AND OTHER PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES TO PARTICIPATE IN  
38 DECISIONS ABOUT THE INDIVIDUAL'S LIFE AND TO ACCESS INFORMATION,  
39 RECORDS, REPORTS, CARE PLANS, ETC.; AND

40 (III) THE PROCEDURES TO CHALLENGE ANY DECISION AFFECTING THE INDIVID-  
41 UAL.

42 NOTHING IN THIS BILL OF RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES SHALL LIMIT ANY OTHER  
43 RIGHT OR PRIVILEGE UNDER LAW. IF ANY RESIDENTIAL FACILITY OR NON-RESI-  
44 DENTIAL SERVICE PROVIDER FAILS TO AFFORD THESE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES,  
45 ASSISTANCE MAY BE SOUGHT FROM THE FACILITY OR PROVIDER, OR THE OFFICE.

46 (D) A QUALIFIED PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE MAY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW  
47 AND APPROPRIATE DUE PROCESS, NOT EXERCISE A RIGHT OR PRIVILEGE DESCRIBED  
48 IN THIS SECTION IF THE SUBJECT INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING SERVICES, WHO IS  
49 COMPETENT TO DO SO, SPECIFICALLY AFFIRMS, IN A REASONABLY CONTEMPORANE-  
50 OUS MANNER, THAT SUCH IDENTIFIED QUALIFIED PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE  
51 SHALL NOT BE AFFORDED SUCH SPECIFIC RIGHT OR PRIVILEGE. SUCH DETERMI-  
52 NATION BY THE SUBJECT INDIVIDUAL SHALL BE DESCRIBED AND RECORDED IN  
53 WRITING IN THE CASE FILE BY APPROPRIATE STAFF OF THE FACILITY OR SERVICE  
54 PROVIDER AND A STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR SUCH DENIAL SHALL BE PROVIDED TO  
55 THE QUALIFIED PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE.

1 (E) THE STATEMENT OF RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION  
2 IS INTENDED TO BE A GUIDE TO THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF QUALIFIED  
3 PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
4 RECEIVING RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES.

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

11 (G) EACH COVERED PROVIDER SHALL CONSPICUOUSLY POST A COPY OF THE BILL  
12 OF RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES IN A PUBLIC PLACE AT EACH OF THE COVERED  
13 PROVIDER'S FACILITIES.

14 (H) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL:

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

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

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

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

26 (5) ADOPT ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THIS  
27 SECTION.

28 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.