

# STATE OF NEW YORK

5969--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

March 4, 2025

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Use Disorders -- recommitted to the Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Use Disorders in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- 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 substance use disorder treatment bill of rights

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (c) of section 22.03 of the mental hygiene law,  
2 as added by chapter 558 of the laws of 1999, is amended and a new subdivi-  
3 sion (d) is added to read as follows:

4 (c) The director of every [~~chemical dependence~~] substance use disorder  
5 program, service, or treatment facility shall post copies of [~~a notice~~]  
6 the substance use disorder treatment bill of rights in a form and manner  
7 to be determined by the commissioner, at places throughout the facility  
8 or program where such [~~notice~~] bill of rights shall be conspicuous and  
9 visible to all patients[~~, stating~~]. The substance use disorder treatment  
10 bill of rights shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

11 1. [~~a general statement of the rights of patients under the various~~  
12 ~~admission or retention provisions of this article, and~~  
13 ~~2. the right of the patient to communicate with the director, the~~  
14 ~~board of visitors, if any, and the commissioner] Every patient has the  
15 right to participate in developing an individualized plan of treatment  
16 and to request a review of the patient's treatment plan by another  
17 clinician;~~

18 2. Every patient has the right to receive an explanation of services  
19 in accordance with the patient's treatment plan;

20 3. Every patient shall have the right to be fully informed of the  
21 patient's proposed treatment, including possible adverse effects;

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

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1 4. Every patient has the right to object to or terminate treatment  
2 unless otherwise directed pursuant to court order, and cannot be coerced  
3 into treatment;

4 5. Every patient has the right to privacy in treatment and in caring  
5 for personal needs, to have confidentiality in the treatment of personal  
6 and medical records, and to have security in storing possessions;

7 6. Every patient has the right to have access to the patient's treat-  
8 ment records;

9 7. Every patient and provider shall treat each other in a mutually  
10 courteous and fair way that is appropriate to the patient's individual  
11 needs;

12 8. Every patient shall be treated in a manner that is free from abuse,  
13 discrimination, mistreatment, and exploitation;

14 9. Every patient's civil and religious liberties, including the right  
15 to independent personal decisions and knowledge of available choices,  
16 shall not be infringed and facility or program staff shall encourage and  
17 assist in the fullest exercise of these rights; and

18 10. Every patient shall be free to report grievances regarding  
19 services or staff to a supervisor, director, the board of visitors, or  
20 the commissioner.

21 (d) Every substance use disorder program, service, or facility shall  
22 give a copy of the substance use disorder treatment bill of rights to  
23 each patient at or prior to the time of admission, or to the appointed  
24 representative at the time of appointment and to each member of the  
25 staff at the program, service, or facility.

26 § 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after  
27 it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amend-  
28 ment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implemen-  
29 tation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and  
30 completed on or before such effective date.