



# Patients' Rights Advocacy Services

## What is advocacy?

The goal of the Patients' Rights Advocate is to protect and further the constitutional and statutory rights of people receiving mental health services.

## Patients' Rights

Patients in mental health facilities are guaranteed the rights listed below.

### Undeniable rights:

- Right to least restrictive treatment services
- Right to dignity, privacy and humane care
- Right to be free from harm
- Right to prompt medical treatment
- Right to religious freedom
- Right to education
- Right to social interaction
- Right to physical exercise and recreation
- Right to be free from seclusion and restraint unless your behavior becomes dangerous to yourself or others
- Right to see and receive the services of an advocate.

### Rights that can be denied with "good cause:"

- Right to wear one's own clothing
- Right to personal possessions
- Right to keep and spend money
- Right to reasonable access to individual storage space
- Right to see visitors each day
- Right to reasonable access to the phone
- Right to access letter-writing materials
- Right to mail and receive unopened mail.

"Good cause" only exists when exercising the right would cause injury to oneself or others, serious infringement on the rights of others or serious damage to the facility and there is no less restrictive alternative.

## Advocacy Services

An advocate can help you:

- File complaints
- Access services and programs
- Understand your rights regarding
  - Involuntary commitment
  - Conservatorships
  - Payeeships.

## Humboldt County Patients' Rights Advocacy

Humboldt County provides a Patients' Rights Advocate to promote and represent client's rights and interests.

If you have a question or concern about a patient's rights, please call **800-970-5816** or email [info@smithwatersgroup.com](mailto:info@smithwatersgroup.com).

## THE SMITHWATERS GROUP

**3666 I St.  
Sacramento, CA 95816**

phone: **800-970-5816**  
fax: **916-706-2446**





# Patients' Rights Advocacy Services

## Sempervirens Hospital and Adult Outpatient Services

720 Wood St., Eureka  
**707-268-2900**

## Substance Use Disorder Services

720 Wood St., Eureka  
**707-476-4054**  
Out of area, toll-free  
**866-930-6384**

## Crisis Services

Available 24 hours a day,  
seven days a week  
720 Wood St., Eureka  
**707-445-7715**  
No charge to calling party  
**888-849-5728**

[humboldt.gov/BehavioralHealth](http://humboldt.gov/BehavioralHealth)

