



DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION OF GREATER ST. LOUIS INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS POLICY

Organizational Data

Organization Name: Down Syndrome Association of Greater St. Louis (DSAGSL)
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People with intellectual and / or developmental disabilities have the same basic legal, civil, and human rights as other citizens. They may need accommodation, protection, and support to enable them to exercise these rights. Their rights should never be limited or restricted without due process. DSAGSL believes that every individual receiving services has the following rights:

- **Retention of Rights:** You maintain all of your legal and civil rights while receiving services and participating in DSAGSL programs.
- **Non-Discrimination:** You have a right to be treated fairly without regard to your sex, race, religion, ethnic background, disability, national origin, age or financial standing.
- **Abuse or Neglect:** You have the right to be free from physical, sexual, emotional and mental abuse. If someone has treated you poorly or taken advantage of you, you should tell someone you trust so that the problem can be resolved.
- **Exploitation:** You have the right to be free from exploitation of your property or finances. If you think someone has taken advantage of you, you should tell someone you trust so that the problem can be resolved.
- **Coercion:** You have the right to be free from coercion. You have the right to be free from others pressuring you to do something by using force or threat.
- **Grievances:** You have the right to express grievances in writing to staff, the Executive Director or Board of Directors.
- **Self-Determination:** You have the right to have a voice in the determination of your service goals and needs.
- **Services:** You have the right to services in the most natural, age-appropriate and least restrictive environment possible.
- **Questions:** You have the right to ask questions when you do not understand your services or what you are expected to do.
- **Translation:** You have the right to free oral translation services.

- **Rights:** You are free to exercise your rights and the exercise of those rights shall not adversely affect the way that DSAGSL or its providers treat you.
- **Recommendations:** You have the right to recommend changes to DSAGSL policies and services.

These rights shall be shared with all individuals served by our Association via our website, dsagsl.org, and prior to participation in programming via our intake process.