

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Section: Recipient Rights
Policy Number: 11
Subject: **Access to Entertainment Materials,
Information, News, and Religious
Worship**

Effective Date: 2/12/96
Last Revision Date: 7/27/09
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Policy

It is the policy of the Shiawassee County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA) that a recipient residing in a residential setting or an inpatient setting will not be prevented from acquiring entertainment materials, information, news at his or her own expense or prevented from viewing or listening to television, radio, recordings, or movies or from reading written or printed material made available at a facility for reasons of, or similar to censorship, and permitted access to religious services and worship on a nondiscriminatory basis.

Purpose

To ensure the protection of rights of recipients receiving services from SCCMHA and/or SCCMHA's contract providers.

To ensure compliance with the Michigan Mental Health Code, the Michigan Department of Community Health Administrative Rules, and standards of accrediting bodies.

Application

This policy applies to all residential and inpatient programs and centers where treatment is provided to Board-sponsored recipients and which are operated by or under contract with the SCCMHA. All provider agencies with SCCMHA will comply with this policy.

Standards

1. Restrictions or limitations for a specific recipient residing in a residential or inpatient setting may be imposed if clinically indicated and documented in the written plan of service for that recipient. The need for such restriction or limitation will be assessed by the clinical staff responsible for developing the plan of service for a specific recipient.
2. A recipient who is a minor and residing in a residential or inpatient setting may obtain and keep written or printed material or view television programs or movies unless that recipient's parent or guardian objects or if prohibited by state law.

3. A recipient will be permitted access to religious services and worship on a nondiscriminatory basis. A recipient will not be coerced into engaging in religious activity.
4. A recipient residing in a residential or inpatient setting or, when applicable, his or her guardian or parent will be informed of any restriction or limitation on the recipient's right to access and of the purpose that such a restriction or limitation is intended to achieve.
5. Each instance of restriction or limitation and justification for its application will be documented in the recipient's record.
6. The clinical staff responsible for developing a plan of service for a specific recipient residing in a residential or inpatient setting will review at reasonable intervals the need for any restrictions or limitations enacted under this policy. Restrictions or limitations which have been applied pursuant to this policy will be removed when the clinical staff responsible for developing the plan of service for a specific recipient determines that the restrictions or limitations are no longer essential to achieve the objectives which justified their application.
7. The policies and procedures of a residential or inpatient program will:
 - a. Specify restrictions on access to material for reading, listening, or viewing.
 - b. Provide for a determination of a recipient's interest in and for the provision of a daily newspaper.
 - c. Permit attempts by the staff person assigned responsibility for the plan of service for a recipient who is a minor to persuade the recipient's parent or guardian to withdraw objections to materials desired by that recipient.
 - d. Provide a mechanism for recipients to appeal denial of their right to access and to remedy wrongful denial.
 - e. Specify essential restrictions on a living unit or for the therapeutic benefit of the residents as a group.

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Approved by: *Jerry Walden*
Board Chairperson

 7/27/09
Date

 Scott Gilman
Chief Executive Officer

 7/27/09
Date

