

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

so that you can make an informed decision about services:

1. A description and discussion of your needs. You get to set your own service goals.
2. An explanation of how the recommended service will meet your needs and goals.
3. The name, type, frequency, amount, scope and likely duration of the recommended service; and the provider's name, roles and responsibilities.
4. A description of the likely benefits and possible risks (temporary and permanent) of the recommended service.
5. An explanation of the nature, degree, duration and probability of side effects and interactions (with other services), and whether and how the provider can control these side effects.
6. An explanation of **other appropriate services** available and why the provider recommends this particular service.
7. An explanation of how you can get the other services, including appeal rights such as a Medi-Cal fair hearing.

LIMITATIONS ON THIS RIGHT

If you **do not give informed consent** to a proposed service, a provider may give you the service involuntarily only after following specific legal procedures.

NO ONE CAN GIVE YOU A SERVICE WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT UNLESS:

1. There is a legally defined, properly documented **emergency**, **OR**
2. In a **special legal procedure**, a judge finds that you do not have the ability or capacity to refuse it. In that case, the court will name someone to make decisions for you, **in consultation with you.**

QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT YOUR NEEDS AND GOALS

1. How can I get information about setting my goals?
2. How does the recommended service meet my needs and goals?
3. What are the alternatives to the recommended service?
4. Who can give me a second opinion?
5. Is the provider aware of the newest service that could meet my needs?
6. Why is the service recommended rather than other alternative service?
7. Can I decide how often I should get this service?
8. Why do you recommend this amount or frequency?
9. If I try this and decide it does not work for me, how can I change it?
10. How can I get a copy of my service plan in a language or form I can understand?
11. What can I do if I disagree with any part of my service plan?
12. When and how can I review or change my service plan goals?

Federal and state laws provide that all people who get any services have important rights in the process. One very important right is:

THE RIGHT TO DIRECT AND GIVE INFORMED CONSENT

Lawmakers passed these laws to assure that you get good **information** — including all **alternatives** — in the planning process. You must get this information in a **language or form that you can understand**.

Informed consent means that, after getting information and talking about your needs and goals, you knowingly agree to the recommended service.

The principles of informed consent **apply to all services** — including rehabilitation, hospitalization, medication, supported living, and vocational support.

If you do consent to a service, you must do so **in writing**; you or someone you authorize must sign the consent.

You or someone you authorize must also sign any **consent to change** the services you get.

You have the **right to withdraw consent** at any time for any reason.

IF YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR RIGHT TO GIVE OR REFUSE CONSENT TO ASSISTANCE,

call

DISABILITY RIGHTS CALIFORNIA

1-800-776-5746

www.disabilityrightsca.org

Developed by Disability Rights California
based on a
1992 NELSON & DAAR brochure

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT

- To take part in your service and/or discharge planning.
- To get information about recommended services — including medication and alternatives.
- To give or refuse to give your consent for recommended services.
- To try different services to see what works best for you.