

NORTHPOINTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

POLICY TITLE: Resident's Right to Access the Media

MANUAL: Recipient Rights

ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE: 5/1/99

REVIEWED/REVISED ON DATE: 8/16/18

REVISIONS TO POLICY STATEMENT: YES NO

PAGE: 1 of 2

SECTION: Rights

BOARD APPROVAL DATE: 11/25/13

CURRENT EFFECTIVE DATE: 9/1/18

OTHER REVISIONS: YES NO

APPLIES TO:

All residential mental health facilities operated or under contract with Northpointe Healthcare Systems.

POLICY:

It is the policy of Northpointe Healthcare Systems to protect an individual's right to access to media.

PURPOSE:

To establish policy and procedures regarding service recipient's right to access the media.

DEFINITIONS:

House Rules: The rules applying to all residents of a home, which are established to assure the safety and comfort of the recipients and the orderly functioning of the home.

PROCEDURES:

1. A resident shall not be prevented from acquiring, at his/her expense, or from reading written or printed material or from viewing or listening to television, radio, recordings, or movies available at a facility for reasons of, or similar to, censorship.
2. The right of access shall not entitle a minor resident to obtain and keep written or printed material, or to view television programs or movies, over objection of a minor's parent or guardian or if prohibited by state law. In the event a minor's parent or guardian does not approve of material, not prohibited by law, this should be noted in the Individual Plan of Service. The CSM is permitted to attempt to persuade a parent or guardian of a minor to withdraw objection to material, not prohibited by law, if desired by the minor.
3. The right of a resident to access the media shall not infringe on the rights of other residents.
4. At the time of admission into a residential facility, the staff member responsible for completing the necessary paperwork with the resident shall ask him/her what kinds of interest he/she has in regard to accessing information from the media. This information shall be documented in the resident's record.
5. Residents whose access to the media is restricted or limited per his/her Individual Plan of Service shall have each instance of restriction or limitation and justification for its application documented in the residential progress notes by the staff member who imposed the restriction or limitation. This information shall be reviewed every 90 days or more frequently if necessary by the Responsible Care Manager and other involved staff members to discuss the resident's progress or lack of progress and determine if the restriction/limitation still needs to be imposed. If it is determined that the restriction/limitation is no longer clinically justified, it shall be removed.
6. The Responsible Care Manager shall immediately inform the resident when a limitation regarding accessing the media has been imposed along with the intended purpose of the limitation. A resident may appeal the denial of their right to entertainment materials, information and news to their case manager and/or the Rights Office. If it is determined the denial was wrongful, the limitation should end immediately.
7. The Home Operator/Manager of a residential facility shall make provisions for the residents to have access to a daily newspaper.
8. General program restrictions are addressed in house rules or resident care agreements and must only be imposed for the therapeutic benefit of the residents as a group.

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