

Bill of Rights

The Rights of Persons with Mental Retardation and other Developmental Disabilities is assured under the Ohio Revised Code. The following "People First language" version of section 5123.62 ORC is an attempt to clarify (so all people can understand their rights) legal language which is often not easily understood by all.

- A. I have the right to be treated **nicely** (with respect) at all times and as a **person** (an individual).
- B. I have the right to a safe, clean home. If it is a **group home/ nursing home** (licensed home), it will be checked every year by the State and local fire department. I have the right to be alone with family and friends. I may have visitors where I live.
- C. I have the right to get **food** (meals) that are healthful and good for me. I have a choice of foods that **I like** (choice of menu).
- D. I have the right **to go** to church or place of worship of my choice, **or not to go** to church or place of worship.
- E. I have the right to go to the doctor, dentist or hospital when I need to **as soon** as I need to.
- F. I have the right to get people to help me with the way I **talk, walk or do things** with my hands. I have the right to get people to help me with the way I act or the way I feel. People need to **ask me first** if I need help.
- G. I have the right to say it is **O.K.** to accept **help** (assistance) and training without being **made to** (being forced on me).
- H. I have the right to have some **time to myself** and a place to go to **be alone**.
- I. I have the right to **use the telephone, to talk** (communicate) to people I **choose** to. **Write letters** or **talk** with **anyone** I want about any subject I want to discuss in a responsible way.
- J. I have the right to keep **things of my own** that I choose to have. People **cannot take away** my **personal things** as a way of punishment. Adults **can not** be grounded (punished) by another person.
- K. I have the right to **be with** (socialize) and to be friends with both men and women.
- L. I have the right to **belong** (join) in activities or do things that will help me grow to be the best person I can be.
- M. I have the right to have a **job** and **make money, save money** for my **dreams** and **goals** for my life.
- N. I have the right to be treated like **everyone** else under the law.
- O. No one should **hit me, hurt me, yell at me**, or say **hurtful** (terrible) things to me. I need people to help me be the best person that I can be.
- P. I have the right to go at **school** or **work** setting and meet and work with other people from my community. I have the right to **education, training**, classes that helps me to go out into the community.
- Q. I have the right to decide things that will **affect me**. This means something that may **change** your way of life.
- R. I have the right to **choose** someone like my **parents** or an **advocate** or a **friend** to speak with me and or for me to do things.
- S. I have the right to **take care** (manage) and spend my own money based on **if I can** my (ability) to do so.
- T. I have the right to have the **papers** (information) in my file kept **secret** (private). People need to get my signed **O.K.** (permission). I have the right to **see** (review) **my file**.
- U. I have the right to **tell** (complain) if I don't agree with something. I also have the right to talk about my **problem** (complaints) without being **scared** (threatened) by others to change my mind or get me in trouble.
- V. I cannot be given **medicine** (pills, shots) to **change** (control)my behavior, or be **tied up, held down or locked up** unless it is needed to keep me from hurting myself or others, or unless I have **O.K.** (agreed) and there is a written plan that I was a part of the planning of such plan.
- W. I have the right to learn about how laws are made, **join in** community decisions, **vote** for the people who make the laws, and be able to tell them how **I** feel about the laws.
- X. I have the right to say "**no**" to be part of any **study** or **test** (experiment).

Submitted by People First of Ohio Board Members
Voted and approved November 3, 2002