

**LIBERTY HOUSE FOUNDATION, INC.  
54 BAY STREET  
GLENS FALLS, NEW YORK 12801**

**STATEMENT OF MEMBER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Individuals receiving services at Liberty House Foundation, Inc. have the same rights as other human beings, and those rights should be recognized and protected to the maximum degree. Upon admission and annually thereafter (or as needed), you will be given the opportunity to review the "Statement of Rights and Responsibilities". The Liberty House Program Coordinator assumes responsibility for seeing that all members are aware of their rights and responsibilities.

The basic rights include those implied in..."life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness"...and those specified in detail in the various documents that provide the basis for governing democratic nations. Respect will be given for each persons' cultural identity. Rights are guaranteed and will not be altered arbitrarily. Specific rights include, but are not limited to:

**Program:**

Individuals have the right to a safe, healthy and suitable program environment.

Individuals have the right to request alternative program plans and to participate in meetings held to make these plans.

**Communication:**

Individuals have the right to access the telephone with privacy for incoming and outgoing local calls except as contraindicated by factors identified within their individual program plans or unit structure dictates.

All information in an individual's record will be kept confidential and only released with permission. An individual may see their record upon request.

**Confidentiality:**

Information may be shared with other programs or interested parties only upon written request and with written consent of the individual and/or the individual's correspondent or guardian. Special consent procedures are in place for the disclosure of HIV related information. Liberty House will ensure that consent is obtained based on all applicable requirements.

## **Services:**

Individuals will not be subjected to physical, verbal, sexual or psychological abuse or punishment.

Each person will receive an individualized plan of services which strives to increase independence, encourage good social skills, includes meaningful recreational and community activities and contact with non-handicapped peers, attempts to increase the person's ability to cope in his or her environment, and encourages participation in vocational training.

Each individual will be given the opportunity to participate in the development of the plan and any changes to the extent of their ability.

Individuals, their parents, legal guardian, and/or advocate/correspondent will be informed of the individual's right to refuse treatment.

## **Health Services and Medical Care:**

Individuals have the right to receive any special health or medical services needed because of his or her handicap or condition. In most instances, an individual's residential provider or family will facilitate these services. In the event that Liberty House facilitates these services, we will strictly ensure the following rights:

They have the right to choose a doctor or dentist by themselves or with help of their family, guardian, or correspondent. They are free to get a second medical opinion.

Individuals have the right to a health care proxy. Assistance will be provided to develop a proxy if you so desire.

Individuals have a right to DNR (Do No Resuscitate) information and assistance will be provided if you so desire.

## **Socials:**

Individuals have the right to participate in social activities that are meaningful, appropriate and productive. These activities will reflect the member's interests and be within his or her capacity.

Individuals will be provided the opportunity to participate in meaningful community programs. All members are encouraged to participate in the planning of these activities.

## **Voting:**

Individuals have the right to register and vote, and to participate in activities that educate them in their civic responsibilities. Staff will provide assistance in this process as needed. Upon admission, individuals will be asked if they would like to register to vote.

## **Protection:**

Individuals have the right to be free from discrimination, abuse or any adverse action based on his or her status as one who is the subject of an HIV related test or who has been diagnosed as having HIV infection, AIDS or HIV related illness.

They have the right to be protected from commercial or other exploitation and cruel or dehumanizing treatment.

Individuals will be afforded due process and equal protection under the law, and fair treatment in the courts when accused of unlawful conduct.

## **Responsibilities:**

Each member of Liberty House Program will:

- 1.) Observe and respect the rights of others.
- 2.) Adhere to all program rules and regulations.
- 3.) Report conflicts to staff in a timely fashion.
- 4.) Participate in a meaningful way in the implementation of the rehabilitation plan
- 5.) Respect the safety and property of others.