

HEALTHWEST

Policy and Procedure

No. 04-014

Prepared by:

Effective: April 22, 1983

Revised: July 5, 2017

The Office of Recipient Rights

Approved by:

Subject: Right to Entertainment  
Material, Information and News-  
Residential Facilities

  
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Julia B. Rupp, Executive Director

I. POLICY

HealthWest shall not prevent a resident from acquiring entertainment materials, information and news at his/her own expense, or from reading written or printed material, or from viewing or listening to television, radio, recordings, or movies made available at the facility for reasons of, or similar to, censorship. Access to entertainment materials, information, or news may be limited only if such a limitation is specifically approved in the resident's individual plan of service.

II. PURPOSE

To ensure a resident's right to entertainment material, information, and news.

III. APPLICATION

Residential facilities operated by HealthWest, and contracted facilities where adherence to this policy is specified in the contract.

IV. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Case Coordinator:** The assigned client services manager or the primary therapist.
- B. **Facility:** A residential setting for the care or treatment of individuals with a mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, or developmental disability that is either operated by or under contract with HealthWest.
- C. **Limitations:** Individual rules governing the specific restriction of a recipient's right to entertainment material, information, and news.
- D. **Resident:** An individual who receives services in a facility.
- E. **Restrictions:** Laws, rules and policies that place specific boundaries on the right to entertainment material, information, and news for a recipient or group of recipients.

V. PROCEDURES

- A. The Case Coordinator shall document each instance when a limitation is imposed in the resident's record.
- B. The residential facility shall not limit access to entertainment materials, information, or news when such limitations can no longer be clinically justified.
- C. Material not prohibited by law may be read or viewed by a minor unless there is an objection by the minor's parent or guardian who has legal custody of the minor.
- D. Residential facilities shall establish written house rules, policies, or procedures that provide for all of the following:
  - 1. Any general program restrictions on access to material for reading, listening, or viewing.
  - 2. Determining a resident's interest in, and provide for, a daily newspaper.
  - 3. Permit attempts by the case coordinator to persuade a parent or guardian of a minor to withdraw objections to material desired by the minor.
  - 4. A mechanism for residents to appeal denial of their right to entertainment materials, information and news, and to remedy a wrongful denial. Please refer to HealthWest Policy No. 4-020.
  - 5. Any specific restrictions on a living unit or for the therapeutic benefit of the residents as a group.

VI. REFERENCES

Act 258, Public Acts of 1974, as amended, 330.172G.  
Administrative Rule R 330.7139

LS/jec