

PATHWAYS ABILITIES SOCIETY

POLICY: PERSONS SERVED RIGHTS AND CONSENT FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applies to: All Personnel, Volunteers and Persons Served

Original Effective Date: December 18, 2008

Effective Date: January 24, 2013

Replaces Procedure Dated: September 12, 2011

Board Member's Signature

PREAMBLE

The Canadian Human Rights Act

The purpose of the Canadian Human Rights Act is “to extend the laws in Canada to give effect, within the purview of matters coming within the legislative authority of Parliament, to the principle that all individuals should have an opportunity equal with other individuals to make for themselves the lives that they are able and wish to have and to have their needs accommodated, consistent with their duties and obligations as members of society, without being hindered in or prevented from doing so by discriminatory practices based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, diverse-ability or conviction for an offence for which a pardon has been granted.” Please see Pathways Abilities Society’s Discrimination policy, the Government of Canada or the Government of BC websites for further information.

POLICY

Pathways Abilities Society ensures the rights of people are respected and that each person receiving service from Pathways Abilities Society understands to the best of their ability the type of support and assistance they will receive. Sometimes the support and assistance requires an intervention (help) to keep people healthy and safe.

Pathways Abilities Society supports people with diverse-abilities to understand their rights and responsibilities. A document was developed by the Kelowna Self Advocates and was adopted (accepted) by Pathways Abilities Society. The document is called Rights and Responsibilities of Individuals Receiving Service from Pathways Abilities Society. The document is reviewed at least once a year and updated based on the feedback from people with diverse-abilities. The document is given to all people with diverse-abilities, staff and volunteers and is available on the Pathways Abilities Society website.

Pathways Abilities Society staff do their best to explain what a person’s rights are. A person has the right to have someone other than a Pathways Abilities Society staff explain to them what their rights are.

To ensure we are respecting people's rights and to identify times when because of health and safety Pathways Abilities Society intervenes or helps protect a person, all people receiving service from Pathways Abilities Society must complete a Community Support and Consent form. The form is completed when they start service, updated (changed) as required and a new form is completed one time each year, usually at an Individual Service Plan. If there are changes to the form the person signing the form is responsible for letting Pathways Abilities Society know.

The form collects information that guides Pathways Abilities Society staff on how services are provided to people and has specific information on:

- The type of information that will be given out about the person.
- If Pathways Abilities Society can use the person's picture.
- The type of support needed with money.
- The type of support needed in the community.
- Medications the person may or may not be taking.
- The type of support protocols that the person may need.
- Rights.

Pathways Abilities Society staff is only allowed to sign the form if they are a designated decision maker (see the policy) or can explain why they are completing it.