

RIGHT HERE!

SAFETY
FIRST

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS &
RESPONSIBILITIES

WHAT OPWDD SAYS:

NEW YORK STATE CODES,
RULES AND REGULATIONS
(NYCRR) PART 633
(RIGHTS AND
RESPONSIBILITIES OF
PERSONS RECEIVING
SERVICES) OUTLINES
THAT:

No one can be deprived of
civil or legal rights
because of a
developmental disability...
including The right to a
safe and sanitary
environment; freedom
from abuse; freedom
from unnecessary
restraint; protection from
exploitation; and
confidentiality of records.

WHAT DOES BEING SAFE MEAN?

BEING SAFE MEANS MORE THAN JUST BEING
FREE FROM HARM. IT MEANS:

- YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE AND SECURE IN
YOUR ENVIRONMENT.
- YOU ARE TREATED WITH RESPECT BY
STAFF AND OTHERS.
- YOU CAN SPEAK UP IF SOMETHING DOESN'T
FEEL RIGHT.
- YOU HAVE PRIVACY AND YOUR PERSONAL
SPACE IS PROTECTED.
- YOU KNOW WHO TO GO TO FOR HELP WHEN
YOU NEED IT.

SAFETY ALSO INCLUDES EMOTIONAL AND
MENTAL SAFETY—FEELING HEARD,
SUPPORTED, AND VALUED FOR WHO YOU ARE.



What Staff can do:



STAFF PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN HELPING PEOPLE STAY SAFE. THEY:

- LISTEN AND RESPOND WITH CARE.
 - FOLLOW OPWDD AND CQL SAFETY STANDARDS.
 - RESPECT PEOPLE'S CHOICES AND BOUNDARIES.
 - HELP INDIVIDUALS LEARN ABOUT SELF-PROTECTION, HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS, AND PERSONAL RIGHTS.
- WHEN STAFF AND INDIVIDUALS WORK TOGETHER, EVERYONE CAN ENJOY A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT.

WHY IT MATTERS?

In an OPWDD setting, the safety of people receiving services is not just a regulatory requirement—it's a human right.

According to CQL (The Council on Quality and Leadership), helping people understand their right to be safe is a key part of person-centered support and dignity of risk.

It's about more than preventing harm—it's about empowerment.

OPWDD says that everyone receiving supports and services has the right to be safe and to live a life that is free from abuse, neglect, harm, and danger.

