

RIGHT HERE!

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

YOUR LIFE. YOUR VOICE. YOUR CHOICE.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH OPWDD REGULATIONS (14 NYCRR §§624 AND 633), "NO PERSON SHALL BE DEPRIVED OF ANY CIVIL OR LEGAL RIGHT SOLELY BECAUSE OF A DIAGNOSIS OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY"

HAVING A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY DOES NOT DIMINISH YOUR RIGHTS. YOU ARE ENTITLED TO THE SAME CIVIL AND LEGAL RIGHTS AS EVERYONE ELSE. THIS INCLUDES THE RIGHT TO BELONG TO GROUPS. (14 NYCRR § 633.4 – RIGHTS OF PERSONS RECEIVING SERVICES)



THE RIGHT TO BELONG TO GROUPS!

IT'S YOUR Right!
TO BELONG TO GROUPS

IT'S YOUR LIFE




BELONGING TO GROUPS IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT FOR EVERYONE. ALL PEOPLE—WHETHER THEY HAVE A DISABILITY OR NOT—HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE FRIENDS, JOIN GROUPS, AND BE PART OF THEIR COMMUNITY.

IN SERVICES THROUGH THE OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (OPWDD), THIS RIGHT IS IMPORTANT. YOU HAVE THE SAME RIGHT AS ANYONE ELSE TO CHOOSE WHERE YOU BELONG.



WHAT Staff CAN DO:



WHAT CAN STAFF DO TO HELP?

- Staff play an important role in supporting your right to belong. Staff should:
- Listen to what you like and what matters to you
- Help you find groups that match your interests
- Support you in trying new activities
- Respect your choices—even if you say no
- Help with transportation or planning if needed
- Encourage friendships and community connections
- Treat you with respect and support your independence



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT

- Join clubs, teams, or activities you enjoy
- Be part of your community (church, gym, classes, events)
- Spend time with people who share your interests
- Make friends and build relationships

