

Catholic Charities Disabilities Services	
Agency Standard and Procedure	
<b>Standard Category</b>	Residential Services
<b>Standard Title</b>	Individual Rights: Telecommunication
<b>Regulations</b>	14 NYCRR 633.16
<b>Original Issue Date</b>	1/21/2014
<b>Latest Revision Date</b>	1/23/2020 01/12/2023 9/18/2025
<b>Number of Pages</b>	1
<b>Attachments</b>	
<b>Approved by:</b> Paula Jubic, Executive Director	

**Standard:**

Catholic Charities Disabilities Services (CCDS) will ensure that individuals who reside in CCDS operated residences are not deprived of any civil or legal right solely on the basis of their disability, race, religion, national origin, creed age, gender, ethnic background, sexual orientation or for any other reason. Further, CCDS will endeavor to ensure that such individuals are afforded opportunities to exercise their rights in a manner consistent with that enjoyed by other members of the community at large.

**Procedure:**

1. Individuals may choose to purchase their own telecommunication/entertainment devices (telephones, computers, tablets etc.), utilize such devices and services throughout the residence, and will not be restricted in their ability to utilize such devices and services for all lawful purposes. Individuals will be supported in ensuring the safety and security of their devices. *(See Protecting Valuables of Individuals Supported Standard)*
2. If residential staff have any question about adherence to these protocols in any particular situation which they believe may pose a threat to the safety or well-being of an individual, they are to contact a supervisor (shift supervisor, site supervisor, program manager, or administrator on-call, etc.) for clarification.
3. Any limitations on these rights which are necessary to protect the health or safety of the individual will be established on an individual basis, for a specific period of time, have a clinical justification, and be documented. *(See Human Rights Committee Standard)*