

People with Disabilities Bill of Rights and Declaration of Independence

We believe that all people should enjoy certain rights. Since people with disabilities have consistently been denied the right to fully participate in society as free and equal members, it is important to state and affirm these rights, regardless of race, creed, color, sex, religion, size, marital status, sexual orientation, transgender status, HIV/AIDS status, or disability.

- The right to live independent, active, and full lives.
- The right to equipment, assistance, and support services necessary for productivity, provided in a way that promotes dignity and independence.
- The right to personal safety and a life free of violence and abuse.
- The right to an adequate income or wage, substantial enough to provide food, clothing, shelter and other necessities of life.
- The right to accessible, integrated, convenient, safe and affordable housing.
- The right to quality physical and mental health care.
- The right to accessible transportation and freedom of movement.
- The right to training and employment without prejudice or stereotype.
- The right to have healthy and respectful relationships with people with disabilities and without disabilities.
- The right to access information on sexuality and to have safe and healthy sexual relationships with the person(s) of their choice.
- The right to bear or adopt children and raise children and have a family.
- The right to public and higher education.
- The right to participate in and benefit from entertainment and recreation.
- The right of equal access to and full use of all businesses, facilities, and activities in the community.
- The right to a barrier free environment.
- The right to legal representation and full protection of all legal rights.
- The right to determine one's own future and make one's own life choices.
- The right to full access to all voting processes.

(Adapted from the Center for Independent Living, Berkeley, CA.)