



TENANT RIGHTS (05-09-16) **(Independent Apartment Living Program)**

A right is something the law says you are allowed to do. It is important to us to make sure that you are aware of your rights and that your rights are being respected. Our policy is to assure the rights of each **TENANT**. Below is a list of your rights as a tenant of The Arc of Rowan's Independent Apartment Living Program.

- ✓ Right to be treated well and have your privacy respected, and freedom from mental and physical abuse, neglect and exploitation;
- ✓ Right to culturally competent treatment, including access to medical care and habilitation, mental health or substance abuse services regardless of age or degree of services needed;
- ✓ Right to a personalized and culturally appropriate tenant plan that focuses on your goals, needs and abilities, strengths, preferences, and cultural back-ground needs;
- ✓ Right to have this plan in place within 30 days of admission to Independent Living
- ✓ Right to exercise the civil rights available to all citizens unless these rights have been limited by a court of law;
- ✓ Right to confidentiality. This means that no one has access to your identity or health information without your written permission, except in special situations that are defined in the Notice of Privacy Practices;
- ✓ Right to services that are best suited for your age, level of need, and cultural background;
- ✓ Right to be completely informed in advance of the potential risks and benefits of different service choices;
- ✓ Right to be free from unnecessary medication, punishment and abuse;
- ✓ Right to be free from physical restraint and seclusion (except as followed by policy/procedure);
- ✓ Right to consent to or refuse any service you have been offered unless: (a) in an emergency situation (b) if service was ordered by the court or (c) you are under 18 years old, and your legally responsible person gives permission, even if you object.
- ✓ Right to see your friends, family, girlfriends or boyfriends every day.
- ✓ Right to meet people and take part in your community activities.
- ✓ Right to decorate your apartment to your choosing as long as it meets safety codes.
- ✓ Right to exercise and have fun.
- ✓ Right to be involved in a religion of your choice if you want to be.
- ✓ Right to go to school or work.
- ✓ Right to say **"NO"** to things that change the way you act, scare you, upset you, or put you in danger.
- ✓ Right to make choices about where you live, who you live with, the way you spend your time and who you spend your time with.
- ✓ Right for access and referral to legal professionals for appropriate legal representation as needed.
- ✓ Right to self-help support and advocacy services.

Please also refer to **Resident Rights & Responsibilities** (Secretary -Department of Housing & Urban Development). You, as a tenant, have rights and responsibilities that help make your HUD-assisted housing a better home for you and your family. These are in the red notebook in the common area of the apartment cluster for your review at all times. These rights are reviewed with you when you move into your apartment. We may also call your attention to these rights and responsibilities, at any time, if you are not complying with your responsibilities. Not complying with your responsibilities may be result in discharge from your apartment. Please feel free to ask staff if you have any questions or concerns regarding your rights.