

The SmithWaters Group was founded by Frank and Bill SmithWaters. With more than 50 years of combined experience working in the mental health community at the local, state and national level they have a firm commitment to ensuring that the rights of individuals receiving mental health services are upheld.

The SmithWaters Group is dedicated to ensuring that all individuals are able to thrive and live their lives in a manner that provides them with the greatest opportunity for success.

All of the staff of the SmithWaters Group have experienced life as both a provider of services and a recipient of services. We have a unique perspective of how the system functions and having that life experience is something we all draw from for effective advocacy. We value the diversity of life and incorporate that completely into our services.



The SmithWaters Group currently provides contractual direct advocacy services to the mental health community in select counties throughout California:

The SmithWaters Group

Main Office: Sacramento, Ca 95816

1-800-970-5816

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**Providing
Mental
Health
Advocacy
Services**



1-800-970-5816



Some Important Rights Guaranteed to you in the Mental Health System

Persons with mental illness have the same legal rights guaranteed all other persons by the federal constitution and laws, and the constitution and laws of the state of California, unless specifically limited by federal or state law or regulations. California Welfare and Institutions Code 5325 and 5325.1

You Have The Right To:

Timely access to care, including making services available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, when medically necessary to treat an emergency psychiatric condition or crisis condition.

Respectful treatment by mental health practitioners, agency, clinic and hospital staff members and with due consideration for your dignity and privacy.

Receive information on available treatment options and alternatives, presented in a manner appropriate to your condition and ability to understand.

Informed consent to treatment and to prescribed medication.

Request to receive a copy of your medical records, and request that they be amended or corrected.

The right to access the services of a Title IX Patients' Rights Advocate at all times.

Confidential care and record keeping.

Be free from any form of restraint or seclusion used as means of coercion, discipline, convenience, punishment or retaliation as specified in federal rules about the use of restraints and seclusion in facilities such as hospitals, nursing facilities and psychiatric residential treatment facilities where you stay for treatment.

Receive services that are culturally competent, sensitive to language, to cultural differences and ethnic backgrounds.

Participate in planning your own treatment, in developing a treatment plan that includes the goals of treatment and the services that will be delivered.

Participate in decisions regarding your mental health care, including the right to refuse treatment.