



- A description of the attendant discomforts, risks, and benefits that can reasonably be expected
  - A disclosure of appropriate alternatives advantageous to the recipient
  - An offer to answer further inquiries
- C. **Comprehension** - An individual must be able to understand what the personal implications of providing consent will be based upon the information provided. Therefore, information about treatment and service shall be provided in the client's preferred language.
- D. **Voluntariness** - There shall be free power of choice without the intervention of an element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, overreaching, or other ulterior form of constraint or coercion, including promises or assurances of privileges or freedom. There shall be an instruction that an individual is free to withdraw consent and to discontinue participation or activity at any time without prejudice to the recipient.

**Communication and Training:**

This policy shall be reviewed at the time of initial employee orientation and during the periodic review process. Once the policy is approved/reaffirmed by the Board, employees will be notified of substantive changes. HH policies are available on the website and procedures are available on the employee portal. Clients shall receive notice of their right to consent to service/treatment at the start of services/treatment or when there are substantive changes.

**Definitions:**

1. **Informed Consent:** A written agreement signed by the client, the parent of a minor, or legally empowered guardian, to give consent, which assumes and requires competence, knowledge, and voluntariness. It also means the knowing consent in a written agreement or written documentation of a verbal agreement executed by a client or his/her legal representative, so situated as to be able to exercise free power of choice without undue inducement or any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, or other form of constraint or coercion.
2. **Preferred Language:** For the purposes of this policy, this is the language that the client feels most comfortable in communicating with the provider and reviewing and signing documents that may be required by the treatment/service setting.

**Other Related Materials:**

Consent for Treatment Form

**References/Legal Authority:**

[Client Rights: Client Rights and Responsibilities, Council on Accreditation, 2022](#)

[Minor's Consent to Health Services, SC Code of Laws, Section 63.5.340-350](#)

**Change Log:**

Date of Change	Description of Change	Responsible Party
4.2023	This is a new policy	N. Miller, Prog. Eval. Consultant