

FAMILY CHARTER OF RIGHTS

Families have a right:

- To explicit information that families do not cause mental illness.
- To basic information about diagnosis, treatment plan, options, and prognosis.
- To information about behaviour management, advice and guidance about resources in the community, and the availability of peer support.
- To education that can assist them in coping with mental illness.
- To respect from professionals for the expertise of the family, as well as the sharing of power in the therapeutic process.
- To become appropriately assertive and to overcome traditional socialization that teaches families not to question authority.
- To be involved with their family member as a support system and resource.
- To have a social ethic that is more concerned about the welfare of the person with mental illness than about cost effectiveness.
- To a mandated role on governance or advisory boards and a clear voice in mental health planning and legislation that directly affects their lives.
- To a non-adversarial legal system that is understanding of potential tragedy and helpful in attempts to prevent disaster from occurring.

— British Columbia Provincial Mental Health Family Advisory Council, 1996
— Vancouver Mental Health Family Advisory Council, 2004