

Aphasia Bill of Rights

Whereas aphasia:

- is a communication disorder, usually acquired as a result of stroke, other brain injury, or brain illness
- impairs communication and understanding of language, but does not affect intelligence
- may coincide with frustration and isolation everyday life

People with aphasia:

- must be given the same rights to full and appropriate medical treatment, insurance coverage, and participation in relevant research
- have the same basic rights as other members of society, including the right to positive quality of life and to the pursuit of happiness

Many people are unaware that their difficulty communicating has a name – “aphasia” – and most individuals with aphasia leave the healthcare system without information and referrals to resources in their own communities.

People with Aphasia have the right to:



1. Be told, both orally and in writing, that they have “aphasia” and be given an explanation of the meaning of aphasia.
2. Be provided with written documentation that “aphasia” is part of their diagnosis.
3. Be told, both orally and in writing, that there are local resources available to them, including Aphasia Community Groups in their areas, as well as national organizations such as the National Aphasia Association (NAA).
4. Have access to appropriate outpatient therapy.
5. Give their informed consent in any research projects in which they are participating.
6. Demand that accrediting health care agencies and facilities establish requirements for caring for people with aphasia.
7. Have access to information in their most functional language and access to culturally sensitive services.