

# A Communication Bill of Rights

**All persons, regardless of the extent of severity of their disabilities have a basic human right to affect, through communication, the conditions of their own existence.**

**Beyond the general right, a number of specific communication rights should be ensured in all daily interactions as follows**

	<p><b>The right to request desired objects, actions, events and persons and to express personal preference or feelings</b></p>
	<p><b>The right to be offered choices and alternatives.</b></p>
	<p><b>The right to reject or refuse undesired objects, events or actions including the right to decline or request all proffered choices.</b></p>
	<p><b>The right to request, and be given, attention from and interaction with, another person.</b></p>

From the National Joint committee for the Communicative Needs of Persons with Severe Disabilities. (1992). Guidelines for meeting the communication needs of persons with severe disabilities. *Asha*, 34(Suppl.7), 2-3.

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	<p><b>The right to request feedback about a state, an object, a person or an event of interest.</b></p>
	<p><b>The right to active treatment and intervention efforts to enable people with severe disabilities to communicate messages in whatever modes as effectively and efficiently as their specific abilities will allow.</b></p>
	<p><b>The right to have communicative acts acknowledged and responded to, even when the intent of these acts cannot be fulfilled by the responder</b></p>
	<p><b>The right to have access at all times to any needed augmentative and alternative communication devices and other assistive devices, and to have those devices in good working order.</b></p>

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