

CIVIL RIGHTS

THE LAW

"Incompetency not implied. (1) No person is deemed incompetent to manage his or her affairs, to contract, to hold professional, occupational or motor vehicle operator's licenses, to marry or to obtain a divorce, to vote, to make a will or to exercise any other civil right solely by reason of his or her admission to a facility in accordance with this chapter or detention or commitment under this chapter.

(2) This section **does not authorize** an individual who has been involuntarily committed or detained under this chapter **to refuse treatment** during such commitment or detention, except as provided under s. 51.61(1)(g) and (h)."

§ 51.59, Wis. Stats. [Emphasis added.]

"(1) The director of each treatment facility serving **inpatients** shall ensure that inpatients have an **opportunity to vote**, unless they are otherwise restricted by law from voting, by:

- (a) **Surveying all patients** 18 years of age or over to ascertain their interest in registering to vote, obtaining absentee ballots and casting ballots. The survey shall be conducted far enough before an election to allow sufficient time for voter registration and acquisition of absentee ballots;
- (b) **Making arrangements** with state and local election officials to register voters and to enable interested inpatients to cast ballots at the facility; and
- (c) With a patient's consent, assisting election officials in **determining the patient's place of residence** for voting purposes.

(2) A treatment facility director **may not prohibit** an inpatient **from receiving campaign literature** or placing **political advertisements** in his or her personal quarters and **shall permit candidates to campaign** during reasonably regulated times at designated locations on facility property." [Emphasis added]

DHS 94.22, Wis. Admin. Code [Emphasis added.]

DECISIONS

[None at this time.]