

## Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) Participant Rights and Responsibilities

At Lake Cumberland District Health Department, we seek to provide exceptional care and the best possible experience for every participant. We want to work together with you to ensure you received the clinical care, compassion and services you need. By understanding your rights and responsibilities, you can help us help you.

### *AS OUR PARTICIPANT, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO...*

- Be treated with respect and dignity regardless of race, ethnicity, sex or gender expression, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, class, medical status, or physical or mental ability. We strive to create a safe place free from violence, threats and hateful language.
- Receive available services, supplies, information and education.
- Be respected and have the right to privacy and have prompt services provided. You will be asked to provide a unique identifier so that services can be tracked for reporting and funding accountability.
- Be provided confidential case management upon request.
- Declare to law enforcement that you are a participant in the program and possess needles. Kentucky law states: "Prior to searching a person, a person's premises, or a person's vehicle, a peace officer may inquire as to the presence of needles or other sharp objects in the areas to be searched that may cut or puncture the officer and offer to not charge a person with possession of drug paraphernalia if the person declares to the officer the presence of the needle or other sharp object. If, in response to the officer, the person admits to the presence of the needle or other sharp object prior to the search, the person shall not be charged with or prosecuted for possession of drug paraphernalia for the needle or sharp object or for possession of a controlled substance for residual or trace drug amounts present on the needle or sharp object. "KRS 218A.500 (6) (a)

### *PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES*

- Be responsible for the syringes you are given and to return used syringes to LCDHD-SEP in safe disposable containers.
- Treat staff, interns, with courtesy and respect without physical, sexual, verbal and/or emotional abuse, threats or intimidation.
- Keep the area safe and refrain from engaging in any drug activity that puts LCDHD-SEP at risk of closure.
- Do not buy or sell drugs or loan money on property while on the premises.
- Protect the confidentiality of other participants encountered while participating in the LCDHD-SEP.
- Take only what is needed and dispose of used material and supplies in proper container.
- Clean up drug-related waste in the community and bring needles gathered off the street to LCDHD-SEP.



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