



## **Options Counseling: Understanding Your Rights**

We have received concerning reports about options counseling, an initiative directed at families of Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) residents to encourage them to access community based services. DAA has put together the following information so that families understand their rights and are in the best position to advocate for their loved one.

1. All Medicaid eligible individuals with DD in Ohio have an entitlement to an ICF placement. Families who wish to receive services in their home or other community setting can “waive” their ICF entitlement to receive a “waiver.” Waiving the ICF entitlement to access community services is **voluntary**. Families cannot be forced to give up their loved one’s ICF entitlement.
2. Participation in options counseling is **voluntary**. An individual and their parent or guardian can refuse to participate in options counseling by declining the invitation from Carestar (the agency contracted to perform the options counseling), or by not responding to Carestar. Additionally, speaking with an options counselor does not obligate any individual to take an exit waiver. ICF families can decline or request an exit waiver at anytime.
3. ICF families can request to be placed on a “**Do Not Call**” list if they do not want to be contacted about options counseling. To be placed on the list, email or call Ashley McKinney and indicate, “We do not wish to be contacted about options counseling. Please put our family on the Do Not Call list.” Ms. McKinney’s contact information is:

Ashley McKinney, Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD)  
**ashley.mckinney@dodd.ohio.gov**  
**614-644-7596**

If DD families have any questions about this information, please do not hesitate to contact DAA by emailing us at [info@disabilityadvocacyalliance.org](mailto:info@disabilityadvocacyalliance.org).