



STRAIGHT
A Direction for Youth

STRAIGHT INC.
Greater Washington

PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Mel J. Riddle, Ed.D.

MEMO

TO: All Staff Participating in Intakes

FROM: Bill Glick, Court Liaison

SUBJ: Clients Instructions on Intake

DATE: May 25, 1984

It was recently brought to my attention in a court case that there is a fine legal distinction to be made between a client having signed a form on intake and a client having been instructed to read a form and then signing it. The distinction is a hair-splitting one about informed consent; when asked by a lawyer prior to a hearing, I was not able to answer a definitive "yes" to whether the client had been (1) Instructed to read the particular form in question; (2) Asked if he understood it.

Therefore, whenever you give a client a form or sheet to sign on intake, please, make sure you explicitly ask the client to read it, and also ask if he or she understood it.

Thank you for helping me close this loophole of a legal technicality.