



First Amendment Audits and Public Rights

The Risk Managers Advisory Committee presented a Webinar that provided information about the wave of First Amendment Audits that has just begun targeting Community Centers. On June 26, 2024, Pam Beach presented a webinar to explain what is happening and make recommendations for responding to the audit and dealing with individuals who assert their first amendment rights in your facilities.

Individuals asserting a First Amendment right to enter and remain on government-owned property and to film public officials and employees has been ruled a first Amendment right by the courts. Pam summarized pertinent court cases, described what is considered “public property” and discussed the “rights” members of the public have in your public places. Non-public places were also discussed, an extremely important distinction for Community Centers. Public health facilities are generally recognized as “nonpublic” forums. Pam described the characteristics of health care facilities that remove it from a public forum status and discussed the laws that apply. HIPAA is definitive. Finally, Pam recommended measures to help prevent or limit filming and ways to deal with people who don’t think they have to comply.

Please click this link to view the presentation:

[First Amendment Auditors](#)