



The Law Gives All Patients These Rights

- To be given a written statement and spoken explanation of your rights
- To be informed of your diagnosis, treatment and treatment risks
- To have a second opinion on your diagnosis and treatment from a new psychiatrist
- To have a Treatment Plan which considers your wishes and alternative treatments, and to ask for changes to the plan.
- To request a different psychiatrist, nurse or case manager
- To refuse electroconvulsive therapy, unless you are unable to give informed consent plus other requirements are met, or unless it is urgently needed
- To have your religious, cultural, age-related, gender-related, language and other special needs respected
- To seek legal advice and representation
- To request leave
- To have interference with your freedom, dignity, privacy and self-respect kept to a minimum
- To ask questions and receive answers in a way you understand
- To see the contents of your own file/s, except where information is lawfully exempt
- To have your personal information kept confidential, except under some lawful exceptions, or if you agree to share it with certain people
- To not take experimental drugs unless you give informed consent
- To complain about anything and negotiate with your treating team
- To have your involuntary detention, Community Treatment Order (CTO), or Treatment Plan automatically reviewed within 8 weeks, and then every 12 months
- To appeal against your detention, CTO or Treatment Plan any time
- To be free from discrimination
- To challenge orders appointing Administrators and Guardians
- To receive the best possible, least restrictive mental health services, at least equal to those available for other types of illness

Disclaimer of Liability

The Mental Health Legal Centre disclaims any liability for action taken or not taken as a result of this information. We encourage readers to seek out legal advice and representation wherever possible.

Phone MHLCLC 9629 4422 or 1800 555 887, VLA or a Private Solicitor for further information

F:\FIONA\PUBLICAT\HANDOUTS\The law gives all patients these rights\2005\October2005.rtf 11/10/2005

Reg No. A0013662S ABN No: 30996141084 © MENTAL HEALTH LEGAL CENTRE INC