

RESOURCES: I AM EXPERIENCING INVOLUNTARY TREATMENT

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

If you are 16 years of age or older, you can ask for help from the Independent Rights Advice Service if you are currently an involuntary patient under the Mental Health Act.

If you are under the age of 16, you can ask for help from the Independent Rights Advice Service if:

- You are currently an involuntary patient under the Mental Health Act, OR
- You have been admitted to a hospital or facility because your parent or guardian requested it.

For more information, visit the Who is Eligible section of this website: irasbc.ca

HOW TO ACCESS A RIGHTS ADVISOR:

Currently, only people experiencing detention and involuntary treatment can access the Independent Rights Advice Service. Support network members cannot book rights advice meetings for themselves but can attend a rights advice meeting with the consent of the person they are supporting.

For more information, visit the How to Access section of this website: irasbc.ca

REPRESENTATIVE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

If you are a young person who had a negative experience while detained and experiencing involuntary treatment under the Mental Health Act, the Representative for Children and Youth may be able to support.

You can find more information on the [Representative for Children and Youth](#) below:

Website: rcybc.ca

Email: rcy@rcybc.ca

Phone: 1-800-476-3933

LEGAL RIGHTS UNDER THE MENTAL HEALTH ACT

If you would like basic information about your rights under the Mental Health Act, you can review the materials found on the BC Mental Health Rights website linked below. Please note that some of the information is out of date and updated materials will be added to the Independent Rights Advice website when they are ready.

Website: bcmentalhealthrights.ca/

MENTAL HEALTH REVIEW BOARD

If you do not agree with the decision to admit you as an involuntary patient, you can challenge your admission. One way to do this is to ask for a review panel hearing. The panel is independent. There are 3 people on the panel who will hear your case and decide if you still meet all the criteria to be an involuntary patient. The hearing is free.

To apply for a hearing, fill out [Form 7: Application for Review Panel Hearing](#).

You can contact the Mental Health Review Board for more information about hearings:

Website: bcmhrb.ca

E-mail: MHRBscheduling@gov.bc.ca

Phone (toll free): 1-833-660-2325

LEGAL REPRESENTATION AT MENTAL HEALTH REVIEW BOARD HEARINGS:

When you apply for a hearing, you can ask for free legal help from the Mental Health Law Program. They can connect you with an advocate or lawyer to represent you and help prepare your case.

Website: clasbc.net

E-mail: contact@clasbc.net

Phone (toll free): 1 888 685 6222

SECOND MEDICAL OPINIONS

You can ask for another opinion from a second doctor if you disagree with your treatment. This doctor will assess you and give a second opinion on whether your treatment is appropriate.

To get a second medical opinion, fill out [Form II: Request for Second Medical Opinion](#).

CONCERNS ABOUT THE QUALITY OF CARE

PATIENT CARE QUALITY OFFICES:

If you want to make a formal complaint regarding the quality of care that you received, or you would like more information about making a complaint, you can contact the Patient Care Quality Office in your health authority.

- For the contact information for the Patient Care Quality Office in your health authority, including phone numbers and e-mail address, see www.patientcarequalityreviewboard.ca/makecomplaint.html

PATIENT CARE QUALITY REVIEW BOARD:

If you have submitted your concerns to the health authority's Patient Care Quality Office and are not satisfied with how they were handled or the response you received, you can request that the Patient Care Quality Review Board look into the matter.

Website: www.patientcarequalityreviewboard.ca

E-mail: contact@patientcarequalityreviewboard.ca

Phone (toll free): 1-866-952-2448

BC OMBUDSPERSON

The BC Ombudsperson is independent and can help with complaints about public bodies like a mental health facility.

Website: bcombudsperson.ca

E-mail: info@bcombudsperson.ca

Phone (toll free): 1-800-567-3247