

Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee

Full Representation & Advocacy Priorities

MHLAC may provide representation to people with, or perceived to have, a mental health condition and who have legal concerns in the following areas:

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

- DMH Eligibility Denials
- Access to DMH's Community Based Flex Supports (CBFS) services
- Access to MassHealth's Children's Behavioral Health Initiative (CBHI) services
- Access to mental health services for DYS involved youth

EDUCATION

- Denial of appropriate educational services to youth under 22 years old confined in a DYS or DMH run facility, county jail, or prison
- Exclusion from school as a result of school disciplinary action or arrest, including the failure to provide adequate alternative education
- Discrimination in public schools due to mental health, including failure to provide minimally adequate curriculum and services
- Restraint and seclusion

EMPLOYMENT/ INSURANCE

- Discrimination in employment or workplace benefits
- Private Disability Insurance (Income Replacement) - Denial of or termination from Short- or Long-Term Disability Insurance benefits, where the disability is based on a mental condition
- Health Insurance - Denial of coverage for mental health services or out-of-network providers

FAMILY LAW

- Custody of or parenting time with their children
- Termination or denial of DCF services

JAIL AND BRIDGEWATER STATE HOSPITAL

- Denial of mental health care
- Restraint and Seclusion

MEDICAL TREATMENT DISCRIMINATION

- Dismissal of physical health concerns by a health provider because of a person's psychiatric history
- Allegations of improper disclosure of confidential mental health treatment information

MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES & EMERGENCY ROOMS

- Allegations of mistreatment and rights violations in a hospital emergency room or mental health facility
- Restraint and seclusion

RESIDENTIAL

- Eviction or threat of eviction from DMH group home (supported housing) settings.
- Restraint and seclusion.