

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



YOUR BASIC RIGHTS IN DMH PROGRAMS & FACILITIES

1. Private Phone Calls

- You have right to make and receive confidential phone calls.

2. Private Mail

- You have the right to send and receive sealed, unopened mail.

3. Visitors

- You have the right to private visits every day with people you choose, but visiting hours may be limited.

4. Safe and Clean Environment

- You have the right to a clean, private and safe space for sleeping, bathing, and using the bathroom. This right does not mean that you have a right to a private bedroom.

5. Legal Help

- You have the right to talk to a lawyer or legal advocate at any time.

6. Time Outdoors

- You have the right to go outside every day for fresh air depending on the weather and if the facility believes it's safe and supports it.

ABOUT MHLAC

The Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee (MHLAC) provides **free** legal advocacy for people with mental health challenges throughout Massachusetts. They help protect your rights, answer your questions and connect you with legal resources.

OTHER RIGHTS

Admission: Upon admission, you must be told why you are being admitted and provided with contact information for MHLAC and other legal assistance groups.

Discharge: You have the right to know when and how you can leave the facility.

Medication: You have the right to know what medications you are taking and can refuse medication, unless it is an emergency or required by the court.

Free from harm: You have the right to be free from punishment, abuse and neglect.



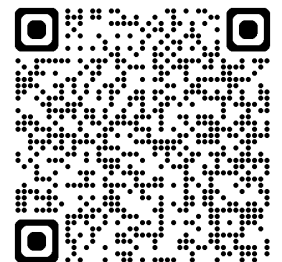
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/LEGAL-HELP



SCAN ME