
Patient Rights

Individuals will receive a copy of their community treatment order as part of the legislative commitment to ensuring their rights are upheld. This includes the individual's right to apply for a review of the community treatment order by the Mental Health Care and Treatment Review Board.

The *Mental Health Care and Treatment Act* provides individuals, whose care is managed through a community treatment order, with access to a rights advisor. In addition to explaining the rights of the person, the rights advisor may also provide the individual with assistance in requesting a review of his or her community treatment order by the Mental Health Care and Treatment Review Board.



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MENTAL HEALTH *Care & Treatment Act*

Community Treatment Orders (CTOs)



The *Mental Health Care and Treatment Act* came into force October 1, 2007, and focuses on the protection and treatment of people living with severe mental illness. It includes criteria used to determine what individuals would benefit from intervention under the Act, including the issuance of community treatment orders.

Community Treatment Orders

The provision of community treatment orders (CTOs) under the Act came into effect on January 1, 2008.

A community treatment order is issued by a psychiatrist to provide mandatory community-based treatment for an individual under very specific conditions (see Criteria).

The treating psychiatrist supervises the person's care, with the assistance of other health care providers, such as a case manager or an assertive community treatment (ACT) team.

The community treatment plan provides important support for the individual and assists him or her with finding safe and affordable housing,

income support, healthy food, social and community participation, accessible transportation, and meaningful employment or volunteer work.

If the required and necessary services are unavailable, the option of a community treatment order is not available.

Criteria

Not everyone will meet the criteria to receive care through a community treatment order. To be eligible, a person must:

- Have been admitted to a psychiatric unit as an involuntary patient on three or more occasions in the last two years;
- Have access to other community services to assist him or her in maintaining wellness; and,
- Be capable of complying with the community treatment plan.

Community Treatment Plan

A community treatment plan is required for the effective use of a

community treatment order. The plan outlines:

- The treatment needed by the person, including the necessary medical and other supports such as housing, income and community involvement;
- The conditions that relate to care, treatment and supervision of the person named in the community treatment order; and,
- The names and responsibilities of the health care professionals, persons and organizations who have agreed to provide treatment, care and supervision.

Other Terms and Conditions

A community treatment order has a term of six months, and a psychiatrist may renew the order as required for additional six-month periods.

During that time, if an individual fails to meet the conditions of the order, the supervising psychiatrist may require that the person be returned to the psychiatric facility for assessment.
