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# *The Rights of an Involuntary Patient*

An involuntary patient is a person who has received a psychiatric assessment, has been certified according to the *Mental Health Care and Treatment Act*, and has been admitted to a psychiatric unit as an involuntary patient.

As an involuntary patient, an individual's rights include:

- Meeting and speaking with a lawyer in private at any time either in person or by other means;
- Having reasonable access to a telephone to make or receive calls;
- Having visitors during regular visiting hours;
- Meeting in person or by telephone with a rights advisor who will explain the individual's rights under the Act;
- Meeting and speaking with a patient representative;
- Being able to write and send letters, and have reasonable access to mail sent to the individual;
- Being told why a certificate of involuntary admission has been issued or renewed;
- Receiving a copy of the certificate of involuntary admission or certificate of renewal;
- Applying to the Mental Health Care and Treatment Review Board for a review of a certificate of involuntary admission or renewal;
- Receiving information describing the review process including the Review Board's function, its address, and an individual's and patient representative's right to act on the individual's behalf in the review process; and,
- Having an interpreter if needed.

