
As part of its work, the Review Board may request the attendance of witnesses and production of documents.

The Review Board may also arrange for a patient to be examined by a psychiatrist or engage independent experts to present evidence or make submissions.

If needed, the Review Board may meet with the involuntary patient in private.

Role of Rights Advisor

The rights advisor may provide assistance to an involuntary patient, a person under a community treatment order, or a patient representative in requesting a review by the Review Board. The rights advisor may also attend the review hearing if requested by one of these individuals.



MENTAL HEALTH ***Care & Treatment Act***

Mental Health Care and Treatment Review Board

For more information, visit:
www.gov.nl.ca/health/mhcta



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.

The Act ensures accountability and transparency and addresses an individual's right to:

- . Know why a certificate of involuntary admission or a community treatment order has been issued or renewed, and receive a copy of the certificate or order;
 - . Reasonable access to a telephone;
 - . Have visitors during regular visiting hours;
 - . Send and receive correspondence;
 - . Retain and instruct legal counsel;
 - . Access a patient representative and rights advisor;
 - . Have input into treatment decisions; and,
 - . Appeal a certificate of involuntary admission or a community treatment order or renewal.
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The Act provides specific timelines for:

- . Issuing or renewing certificates;
- . Issuing or renewing community treatment orders;
- . Changing the status of a voluntary patient to an involuntary patient;
- . Transporting a patient; and,
- . Applying for a review by the Mental Health Care and Treatment Review Board.

Board Membership

The Mental Health Care and Treatment Review Board reviews applications seeking a review of certification of involuntary admission, certificate of renewal, or the issuance or renewal of a community treatment order. It also reviews applications by patients alleging the denial of a right under the Act.

The Review Board is composed of lawyers, doctors, and community representatives who reflect the cultural, ethnic, and regional diversity of the province. Community representatives are those who express an interest in mental health issues,

with preference being given to a person who has lived experience of mental health issues. Members are appointed for three years.

When required to conduct a review, the Review Board will convene a panel of three members representing the three groups.

Board Responsibilities

Review Board members are responsible for reviewing actions taken under authority of the Act, including:

- . Review, and uphold or overturn, certifications and community treatment orders;
 - . Conduct automatic reviews on all involuntary patients held more than 60 days and for individuals under a community treatment order for more than six months; and,
 - . Review and make recommendations in situations of allegations of unreasonable denial of a right.
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