



## Your Rights Under the Mental Health Act - One Admission Certificate

If you are a patient receiving care under one admission certificate, the Mental Health Patient Advocate and staff understand that it can be a difficult and confusing time. We are here to help you resolve your concerns and help you understand your rights. Remember, you are not alone.

In order for you to be detained in hospital under one admission certificate under the *Mental Health Act*, a doctor must examine you and determine that all three certification criteria are met. If one admission certificate is issued, the facility has the authority to care for, observe, examine, assess, treat, detain and control you to determine if you should be admitted as a formal patient.

One certificate is valid for 24 hours from the date and time it is issued. Under the *Mental Health Act*, one admission certificate expires at the end of the 24 hours unless a second certificate has been issued by a second doctor who has independently examined you and is of the opinion that the certification criteria are met, and you should be detained in hospital involuntarily as a formal patient.

When the admission certificate expires, the doctor would then tell you that you are free to leave the hospital. The doctor may ask you to remain in hospital as a voluntary patient if they feel it would be in your best interest. If you decide to leave, the hospital will likely ask you to sign a form acknowledging that you are leaving hospital against medical advice.

As an involuntary patient under the *Mental Health Act*, you have many rights. Below is a list of a few of these rights for your information.

### Rights Regarding being Hospitalized against your Will (Detention)

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT to be told in person of the reasons for your involuntary detention.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT to be informed when your admission certificate expires or is cancelled.

### Rights Regarding your Treatment

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT to refuse **treatment** if you are **mentally competent** to make your own treatment decisions. (The hospital may, however, **control** you without your consent if they feel it is necessary to prevent serious bodily harm to you or to another person. **Control** is the minimal use of restraint, including medication that is reasonable taking into consideration the person's physical and mental condition).

### General Rights

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT to contact and receive visits from your lawyer at any time.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT to receive visitors during regular hospital visiting hours unless your doctor thinks that a visitor would be harmful to your health.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT to confidentiality of all your health information unless the *Health Information Act* allows for the release of health information under certain conditions without your consent.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT to confidentiality of any communications written by you or to you. Hospital staff cannot open, read, withhold or interfere with the delivery of your letters or notes.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT to contact the Mental Health Patient Advocate at 780.422.1812 or toll free through the Government Rite Line at 310.0000.