

I AM AN INVOLUNTARY PATIENT AT A PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL. WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

Involuntary patient means that you are placed or kept in the hospital against your wishes either by an order of detention or by a “pink slip.”

What happens if I am taken to a psychiatric ward or hospital against my will?

- Once you are involuntarily admitted to the hospital, you must have a psychiatric evaluation within 24 hours.
- If the hospital does not discharge you after your evaluation, it has three court days to file an application to have you civilly committed.
- After the hospital files a continued commitment application, a full court hearing will be held.
- You have the right to a court-appointed attorney at your hearing, and you have the right to attend your hearing.
- You have the right to an outside evaluation.
- The hospital must prove to the court that you are a danger to yourself or others.
- If you are an involuntary patient, you can still request your release from the hospital.
- In order to request your release from the hospital, you must first submit an application for voluntary admission.
- You can ask your clients' rights officer for this application.
- If approved, you will become a voluntary patient. You can then request release by filing a three-day letter.
- You have the right to request voluntary admission status at any time.
- The hospital is not required to approve your voluntary admission request.

Remember!

- You have the right to file a grievance with the hospital at any time.
- Ask your clients' rights officer for help with filing.