

## Advocacy

You or your family may need help to understand the mental health system.

### Peer Worker or Carer Consultant

Your treatment centre or community service may have Peer Workers or Carer Consultants who can assist you. Please ask staff for more information.

### Community Visitor Scheme

Independent advocacy for people receiving inpatient and community care.

Tel: 08 7425 7802 / Toll free: 1800 606 302

### Disability Advocacy and Complaints Service of South Australia

Can assist with advocacy and complaints.

Tel: 08 7122 6030

### Disability Rights Advocacy Service Inc.

Individual and systemic advocacy.

Tel: 08 8351 9500

### Office of the Public Advocate

Independent information and advice.

Tel: 08 8342 8200 / Toll free: 1800 066 969

## Legal Assistance

### Your Personal or Family Lawyer

Can help with legal advice or assistance.

### Reviews (appeals)

#### South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT)

Can review an order on request.

Tel: 1800 723 767

Internet: [www.sacat.sa.gov.au](http://www.sacat.sa.gov.au)

## Legal Representation Scheme

### Legal Services Commission

Can provide legal representation during a review or appeal.

Tel: 1300 366 424

## Language Assistance

### Interpreting and Translating Centre

Tel: 1800 280 203 (South Australia)

### Translating and Interpreting Service

Tel: 131 450 (National)

Automated (ATIS): 1800 131 450

### National Relay Service

For hearing and speaking difficulties

Voice/TTY: 133 677

Speak and listen: 1300 555 727

### Deaf Can Do - Auslan Interpreters

Tel: 0417 233 369

### Aboriginal Interpreter Service

Tel: (08) 8999 2062 / [ais@nt.gov.au](mailto:ais@nt.gov.au)

## Complaints

### Your Treatment Centre or Community Service

Your health service has officers who can assist with enquiries and complaints.

Please ask staff for more information.

### Office of the Chief Psychiatrist

Can assist with making a complaint and advise on the *Mental Health Act 2009*.

Tel: 08 8226 1091

### The Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner

Can investigate complaints if a previous complaint process has failed.

Tel: 08 8226 8666

Toll free: 1800 232 007

## For more information

### Office of the Chief Psychiatrist

Telephone: 8226 1091

[www.chiefpsychiatrist.sa.gov.au](http://www.chiefpsychiatrist.sa.gov.au)



Interpreter



[www.ausgoal.gov.au/creative-commons](http://www.ausgoal.gov.au/creative-commons)



Government  
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SA Health



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of South Australia

SA Health

# Mental Health Act 2009 Statement of Rights #5

# Leave of Absence

## Office of the Chief Psychiatrist

## Information about your rights when you are on a Leave of Absence

If you need help to understand this pamphlet, or your treatment, please ask staff at any time.

### What is a Leave of Absence?

The *Mental Health Act 2009* provides a Leave of Absence as the legal way of temporarily being away from a treatment centre when you are on an Inpatient Treatment Order (which has been made to give you treatment against your will when you have a mental illness and are at risk.) You are required to stay in a treatment centre until your order expires or is revoked, unless you are granted a Leave of Absence.

A Leave of Absence is an approved period of time away from your treatment centre, which may be subject to conditions.

### What does it mean if I am on a Leave of Absence?

If you are on a Leave of Absence you have been given temporary permission to leave the treatment centre for a specific period of time. Your Inpatient Treatment Order is still in place and you must continue to take your medication. You must return to the treatment centre when your Leave of Absence has finished.

A Leave of Absence may be made as part of your recovery, for you to engage in usual activities such as seeing friends and family, looking after your house, studying or working.

The Director of the treatment centre, or a delegate, may grant you a Leave of Absence, allowing you to leave the treatment centre for a specific period of time.

The Director of a treatment centre, or a delegate, may cancel your Leave of Absence. Your treating team will let you know as soon as possible and practical and must ensure you to return to the treatment centre.

### What are my rights when I am on a Leave of Absence?

You and your support person (if appropriate) will receive a copy of your Leave of Absence and this Statement of Rights as soon as possible and practical.

If you are unhappy with the treatment you receive, you can speak with your treating team at any time. If you are not satisfied that your concerns have been addressed, you may make a formal complaint.

The other side of this pamphlet provides the contact details for services that can assist with advocacy, interpreting and complaints.

### Confidentiality

Information about you is confidential but may be disclosed with your permission, or if required by law, to provide services or to maintain safety. Information may also be shared with other services, or a relative, carer or friend, if it is reasonably required for your treatment and care and is in your best interests.

### What are my responsibilities when I am on a Leave of Absence?

The Director, or delegate, can place conditions on your Leave of Absence. Conditions are made to maintain your safety and ensure your treatment remains effective. Conditions may include directions to:

- > Not go to a particular place
- > Not see particular people
- > Not to participate in certain activities
- > Not drink alcohol, take drugs or use non-prescribed medication.

You are encouraged to adhere to your Treatment and Care Plan and not engage in activities which may negatively impact your treatment or mental health. If you need more information, please talk to your treating team.

You must return to the treatment centre at the time the Director or delegate has specified.

### What will happen if I don't return to the treatment centre?

If you do not return to the treatment centre at the time stated by the Director, you will be in breach of your order. If your treating team remain concerned about your health and safety they must ensure that you return to the treatment centre as soon as possible and may request the assistance of Police.

It is important that you continue to receive treatment and care and remain safe.