

Standing Committee on Families
and Communities
c/o Committee Clerk
3rd Flr., 9820 - 107 Street N.W.
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 1E7

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Standing Committee Seeks Input on Mental Health Legislation


With respect to giving input into involuntary admission of persons with mental disorders to health care facilities and the use of community treatment orders for persons requiring ongoing mental health services I have the following comments:

1. I believe a psychiatrist has a way too much power to put a Community Treatment Order into place against a person who is not a threat to the community. The Dr. doesn't even know the person on a personal level but is able to make a judgment against that person and which can have a very detrimental effect on this person's life.
2. When a person is admitted to a hospital involuntarily, I believe that this person should be properly assessed and in discussion with a family member before starting the administering of medications. In my view, the person should be detoxed so a true assessment is able to be made as the doctors may not even know the person and what he or she may have in their system. No one can see how a person is when their brain is chemically altered by prescription drugs and any other substance.
3. A psychiatrist or physician needs to be in constant contact with the family members who have consistently been helping the person (even if 18 or older) and who know the person better than the Dr.
4. A Community Treatment Order should be shortened to perhaps three months.

I didn't have a lot of time to put into this submission and I, obviously, don't profess to totally understand the Mental Health Amendment Act, 2007, but I hope that what I have given can be of some benefit. Hopefully, you will give the public another chance to give input into these areas and others and that it will be well publicized.

As we have heard and seen in the media over this past year all the changes that are needed, and which are seriously lacking in the mental health area, I truly hope that something positive comes from all of this attention.

Yours truly,



VIA E-MAIL: FamiliesCommunities.Committee@assembly.ab.ca