

I AM A VOLUNTARY PATIENT AT A PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

What are my rights in Michigan?

There are (2) two types of voluntary hospitalization in Michigan.

1. FORMAL VOLUNTARY

You, or your patient advocate or guardian, submitted a psychiatric hospital application. The hospital agreed you can be hospitalized.

2. INFORMAL VOLUNTARY

You requested hospitalization and the hospital director agreed. You accept treatment.

As a voluntary patient, you have the right to:

LEAVE

- **Informal Voluntary:** You can leave the hospital at any time during the normal day shift hours of the hospital.
- **Formal Voluntary:** You can request to leave the hospital – in writing. The hospital must discharge you within (3) three days (excluding Sunday and holidays). The hospital director may say you need more treatment. They can ask the court to make you stay in the hospital longer.

BE DISCHARGED

- Be discharged when your treatment is done, or you no longer need the services.

SECOND OPINIONS

- If your first assessment determines you don't need to be hospitalized, you can ask for a second opinion.

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What are my rights in Michigan?

Involuntary patients are required by a court to be treated in a hospital.

- Anyone over 18 can ask the court to admit you to a hospital. This is done through a petition.
- The petition must include (2) two clinical certificates from a psychiatrist, physician, or licensed psychologist who examined you.
 - If there is only one certificate with the petition, you must be examined by a psychiatrist within 24 hours.
- Both exams must say you need to be in the hospital. If not, the petition is dismissed, and you have the right to leave.
- After (2) two clinical certificates say you need to be in the hospital, you will have a court hearing in the next (7) seven days.
- If there is a concern you are a danger to yourself or others, the court may order you into protective custody until the hearing.

You can DELAY THE HEARING by agreeing to:

- Hospitalization for up to 60 days.
- Or a combination of hospitalization and outpatient treatment for up to 180 days.

If you refuse treatment or request a hearing, THE COURT WILL HOLD A HEARING.

- During the hearing, the court must consider treatment options that do not involve the hospital. You may be ordered to complete treatment in the community.
- If the court orders you to be hospitalized, this is considered an involuntary hospitalization.
- You have the right to request a copy of the petition and the (2) two clinical certificates in a form you can read and understand.

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