



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

DATE: December 23, 2014

MHSUDS INFORMATION NOTICE NO.: 14-043

TO: COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM DIRECTORS
COUNTY DRUG & ALCOHOL ADMINISTRATORS
COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S ASSOCIATION
CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AGENCIES
COALITION OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ASSOCIATIONS

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY FROM DSH TO DHCS - HOW TO
ORDER PATIENTS' RIGHTS HANDBOOKS AND POSTERS

The purpose of this MHSUDS Information Notice is to inform Mental Health Plans that the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) entered into an Interagency Agreement (IA) with the Department of State Hospitals (DSH). Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code (W&I) Code Section 5370.2, DHCS and DSH must enter into a "memorandum of understanding" to ensure effective management of the patients' rights advocacy services contract and required activities affecting county patients' right programs (DHCS and DSH entered into an IA to meet this requirement). Currently the contractor providing the patients' rights advocacy services required in W&I Code Section 5370.2 is Disability Rights California (DRC).

DSH has transitioned responsibilities to DHCS for patients' rights advocacy services for patients in mental health facilities under the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act as defined in W&I Code Section 5000 et seq. and Section 5500. DRC will provide training and technical assistance to county patients' rights advocates.

Effective immediately, mental health facilities may order all Patients' Rights Handbooks and Posters from DHCS. To order these materials, mental health facilities need to complete the attached order form and email it to PatientsRights@dhcs.ca.gov.

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The Mental Health Services Division Ombudsman contact information, in addition to the local counties advocates' information, is provided on all patients' rights informing materials. The contact information is as follows:

Mental Health Services Division Ombudsman
1-800-896-4042
Email: mhombudsman@dhcs.ca.gov

Questions regarding the content of this Information Notice may be directed to the Project Representative for DHCS, Shelly Osuna, Chief, Policy Section, Mental Health Services Division, at (916) 319-8153 or via email at shelly.osuna@dhcs.ca.gov .

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Karen Baylor, Ph.D., LMFT, Deputy Director
Mental Health Substance Use Disorder Services

Attachment