

Mental Health Act and Health Care Consent Act Terms

Involuntary Care: This is when a person is kept in a hospital for mental health treatment without their consent because they are deemed a risk to themselves or others. A person can be placed under involuntary care for the following reasons:

- **Risk of Harm to Self:** If a person is likely to seriously harm themselves due to a mental health condition.
- **Risk of Harm to Others:** If a person is likely to seriously harm others because of their mental health condition.
- **Inability to Care for Self:** If a person is unable to care for themselves and their mental health condition is likely to cause serious physical impairment or deterioration.

Consent: This means agreeing to receive treatment. Consent must be informed (they understand what's being proposed), voluntary (not forced), and capable (the person understands the decision).

Capacity: This refers to a person's ability to understand information relevant to making a decision about their treatment and to appreciate the consequences of that decision. A person is "capable" if they can understand the treatment's purpose, risks, and alternatives and can make a choice based on that information.

Examination: This is an evaluation conducted by a physician to assess a person's mental health. The purpose is to determine if the individual meets specific criteria for involuntary admission or further psychiatric assessment.

Assessment: This is an evaluation by a psychiatrist to determine if a person has a mental health condition that requires treatment. It often involves interviews, questionnaires, and sometimes physical exams. A psychiatric assessment does not guarantee treatment or admission to a hospital or psychiatric facility.

Treatment: This includes any medical care or therapy provided to help manage or cure a mental health condition. It can involve medication, therapy, or other interventions.

Admission: This is the process of being accepted into a hospital for treatment. It can be voluntary, with the person's consent, or involuntary, without their consent, if they are a danger to themselves or others.