

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

(Parent or Guardian of a Minor)

Conditional Voluntary Hospitalization
M.G.L. Chapter 123, Sections 10 & 11

You have the right to consult with an attorney or paralegal concerning the legal effect of conditional voluntary hospitalization before you sign an Application For Care And Treatment on a Conditional Voluntary Basis for your child/ward. You may consult your own attorney. Alternatively, you may consult with any of the legal assistance entities listed on the Notice of Rights that is posted on the Unit or made available to you upon request, or you may consult with the facility's Human Rights Officer by calling extension during regular working hours.

Once you apply for conditional voluntary hospitalization for your child/ward and your application has been accepted by the facility, you must sign a three-day notice if you decide to withdraw your child/ward from the facility. You can request help with this notice from facility staff. The facility may require that your child/ward remain at the facility for up to three days (excluding Saturday, Sunday and holidays) after you sign and submit the notice.

During the three days after you submit your notice, the facility may decide that your child/ward's release would create a likelihood of serious harm to your child/ward or to others by reason of mental illness. If so, the Superintendent or other head of the facility may file a petition for your child/ward's civil commitment to the facility for a period of up to six months. If a petition is filed, the Court will begin the hearing within five (5) business days, not including Saturday, Sunday and holidays. Your child/ward will have to remain in the facility until the hearing is completed unless the facility decides to discharge your child/ward sooner. Your child/ward will be represented by an attorney at the hearing.

If a civil commitment petition is not filed, your child/ward will be discharged no later than the end of the third day after you file your three-day notice (excluding Saturday, Sunday and holidays).