

If you have to appear before the Mental Health Tribunal

We also have a Mental Health Tribunal Representation Scheme which can provide you with:

- Information about what will happen at the hearing
- Advice on how to represent yourself at the hearing
- A representative who can attend the hearing and support you to speak for yourself and/or speak on your behalf.

Our trained representatives are:

- Independent of government services
- On your side
- Will only say what you want said.



Contact us today

If you would like support from an Advocate, contact us on:

Phone: 1800 005 131 (Freecall)

Email: intake@advocacytasmania.org.au
or

SMS text: 0457 806 963

Advocacy Tasmania Inc. offers a Statewide service and has offices located in Hobart, Launceston and Devonport.

All other enquiries, please contact our office on
03 6224 2240



Freecall
1800 005 131

Visit our website:
www.advocacytasmania.org.au



Your Rights under the **Tasmanian Mental Health Act 2013**

*Free, Independent,
Confidential, Statewide
and at your Direction*



Working to Protect Your Rights

What is the Act about?

The new Mental Health Act (2013) came into force on 17 February, 2014.

It is designed to provide clear rules for the assessment, care and treatment of everyone with a mental illness.

The new Act has a strong human rights emphasis, and has a 'capacity' focus.

This means that people who have the ability to make decisions about their treatment should not be detained or treated against their will.



Some of the main rights

If you have been detained or treated against your will or are considered a high risk patient under the new Act, then you have the right to:

- Be treated with respect and be advised of your rights
- Be given information about your assessment, diagnosis, treatment and care, and be given copies of all relevant documents
- Be given all information in a way you understand which includes access to an advocate or interpreter
- Have your individual needs taken seriously at all times and met whenever possible.
- Only be restrained or secluded as a matter of last resort
- Have contact with your support persons, Official Visitors and representatives in private (including advocates from Advocacy Tasmania).

How can we help?

An Advocate can:

- Discuss your rights and how they can work with you
- Speak with you about how the new Act works and how it might affect you
- Meet with you and your health care team to discuss issues that are of concern to you eg medications, care plan, etc.
- Assist you to lodge an official complaint if there is a breach of your rights
- Provide support, when necessary, to ensure you are involved in discussions regarding your treatment and care
- Help you locate additional information you might need to exercise your rights

This is a free service.

Freecall

1800 005 131

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