



Involuntary Medication Fact Sheet

You have the right to decide whether to take medication, and which medication to take. This is called "informed consent."

Informed consent means that your doctor must give you information about the proposed medication, including its purpose, possible side effects and its potential risks and benefits. Your doctor must also give you information about reasonable alternatives.

Unless two doctors (one must be a psychiatrist) decide that you are incompetent, you can refuse to take medication.

Except in an emergency, no one can force you to take medication without going through a multi-step process. If a doctor wants to give you medication against your wishes, you have certain rights:

- You must receive written and spoken notice of advocacy services available to you;
- You must be given the opportunity to have a meeting with someone who was not involved in the decision to give you medication involuntarily;
- You must be given at least 48 hours notice before this meeting;
- You and your representative(s) may attend the meeting, if you wish;
- You must receive a written decision after the meeting about the involuntary medication; and
- You have the right to appeal the decision to medicate you against your wishes.

If you have been forced to take medication against your wishes, you may file a grievance about it. Your provider should give you a copy of the grievance form, or you can speak your grievance and ask your provider to put it in writing for you.