



## Legal Advocacy Services' Call Center Pre-Recorded Information for General Public Opening Information:

The Legal Advocacy Service (LAS) was created so that eligible children and adults, who have a disability, could obtain legal advice and representation to protect and enforce their rights guaranteed by Illinois' Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code. LAS attorneys provide needed assistance to persons with disabilities in a variety of settings: mental health facilities, residential programs, community placements, and nursing homes. Issues addressed include but are not limited to: admission and discharge from hospitalization, adequate treatment, refusal of unwanted services, and confidentiality of mental health records. Assistance takes the form of information, referral, and legal representation in trial court hearings, administrative proceedings, and Appellate court representation.

### Frequently Asked Questions:

**1. My family member has a mental illness but has stopped taking their medication. They need to be hospitalized but I cannot get them to come with me. What can I do?**

A. Call your County State's Attorney office ask for the civil mental health commitment attorney and explain that you need a Writ of Detention and Evaluation. The State's Attorney should be able to advise and assist you on obtaining this order.

**2. I have been brought to the hospital, against my will, and I want to be discharged. How do I get out?**

A. Ask the Nurse, Doctor or Social Worker to give you a request for discharge form so you can sign it. From the date the form is signed the hospital has 5 days, excluding holidays and weekends, to either discharge you from the hospital or file a Petition for Involuntary Commitment. If a Petition for Involuntary Commitment is filed, the hospital is permitted to detain you until your doctor determines you can be discharged, or your Involuntary Commitment petition is resolved in court by a Judge.