



Tennessee—State Resource Guide

State Behavioral Health Agency

For more information about admission, care, treatment, release, and patient follow-up in public or private mental health and substance abuse treatment facilities, contact your State agency:

Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

425 Fifth Avenue North
Third Floor, Cordell Hull Building
Nashville, TN 37243-0675

Phone: 615-532-6500

Fax: 615-532-6514

E-mail: OCA.Tdmh@tn.gov

Internet: <http://www.state.tn.us/mental>

Spanish language assistance available

State Protection and Advocacy Agency

Each State has a protection and advocacy agency that receives funding from the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Agencies are mandated to protect and advocate for the rights of people with mental illnesses and to investigate reports of abuse and neglect in facilities that care for or treat individuals with mental illnesses. These facilities, which may be public or private, include hospitals, nursing homes, community facilities, board and care homes, homeless shelters, jails, and prisons. Agencies provide advocacy services or conduct investigations to address issues that arise during transportation or admission to such facilities, during residency in them, or within 90 days after discharge from them. Contact:

Disability Law & Advocacy Center of Tennessee
P.O. Box 121257
2416 21st Avenue South, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37212

Phone: 615-298-1080

Toll-free: 800-342-1660 (Statewide)

TDD: 800-852-2852

Fax: 615-298-2046

E-mail: GetHelp@DLACTN.org

Internet: <http://www.dlactn.org>

Spanish language assistance available

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which are part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, investigate some complaints about treatment facilities that receive Medicare and Medicaid funding. For further information at the national level, contact:

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Phone: 410-786-3000

Toll-free: 877-267-2323

TDD: 866-226-1819

E-mail: question@cms.gov

Internet: <http://www.CMS.gov>

You may also share your concerns with staff at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services office in your area, which is Region 4. The regional office address and telephone numbers are:

Atlanta Regional Office
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, Southwest, Suite 4T20
Atlanta, GA 30303-8909
Phone: 404-562-7500
Fax: 404-562-7162

Internet:

<http://www.cms.gov/RegionalOffices/Downloads/AtlantaRegionalOffice.pdf>

Advocacy Organizations

Local chapters of Mental Health America (formerly the National Mental Health Association) have information about community services and engage in national and State level advocacy. For more information about the association, write or call:

Mental Health Association of Middle Tennessee

295 Plus Park Boulevard, Suite 201

Nashville, TN 37212-5318

Phone: 615-269-5355

Toll-free : 866-535-3825

Fax: 615-269-5413

E-mail: forinfo@mhamt.org

Internet : <http://www.ichope.com>

The National Alliance on Mental Illness maintains a helpline for information on mental illnesses and referrals to local groups. The local self-help groups have support and advocacy components and offer education and information about community services or families and individuals. For information about the Alliance's affiliates and activities in your State, contact:

NAMI Tennessee

1101 Kermit Drive, Suite 605

Nashville, TN 37217-2126

Phone: 615-361-6608

Toll-free: 800-467-3589

Fax: 615-361-6698

E-mail: info@namitn.org

Internet: <http://www.namitn.org>

Statewide consumer organizations are run by and for consumers of mental health services and promote consumer empowerment. These organizations provide information about mental health and other support services at the State level and are active in addressing and advocating for mental health system issues. For information about consumer activities in your area, contact:

Tennessee Mental Health Consumers Association
(TMHCA)

955 Woodland Street

Nashville, TN 37206

Phone: 615-250-1176

Toll-free: 888-539-0393

Fax: 615-383-1176

E-mail: info@tmhca-tn.org

Internet: <http://www.tmhca-tn.org>

Office of Consumer Affairs

Tennessee Division of Mental Health Services

425 5th Avenue North

Cordell Hull Building, Third Floor

Nashville, TN 37243-0675

Phone: 615-532-6700

Toll-free: 800-560-5767

Fax: 615-253-3920

E-mail: OCA.Tdmh@tn.gov

Internet: <http://www.tennessee.gov/mental/recovery/ocal.html>

The National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse, funded partly by SAMHSA, promotes and helps to develop consumer-run self-help groups across the country. Technical assistance and materials are available on such topics as organizing groups, fundraising, leadership development, incorporating, public relations, advocacy, and networking. For more information, contact:

The National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse

1211 Chestnut Street, Suite 1207

Philadelphia, PA 19107

Phone: 215-751-1810

Toll-free: 800-553-4KEY (539)

Fax: 215-636-6312

E-mail: info@mhsselfhelp.org

Internet: <http://www.mhsselfhelp.org>

The National Empowerment Center is a Technical Assistance Center run by mental health consumers/survivors. The Center's mission is to carry a message of recovery, empowerment, hope and healing to people who have been diagnosed with mental illness. The Center provides information and referrals to consumer/survivor resources nationwide and offers technical assistance to individuals and groups involved in consumer empowerment activities. The Center distributes recovery-related publications and sponsors education and

training activities. For information on consumer/survivor activities in your area, contact:

The National Empowerment Center
599 Canal Street
Lawrence, MA 01840
Phone: 978-685-1494
Toll-free: 800-769-3728
Fax: 978-681-6426
Internet: <http://www.power2u.org>

Other Sources of Information

There are many sources of information that you can tap. Your area mental health authority, which is generally a part of the local government, may be useful. Other branches of your city or county government also may be able to help. For example, the education office might have information about help for children, and the agency for the aging might know about services for senior citizens. In addition, your family physician or area hospital may be able to make referrals. For legal advice, contact your local bar association or go to <http://www.findlegalhelp.org>. Also, your local library and telephone yellow pages may have resource lists for sources of help in your community.

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2/12