

Community Treatment Order Program

Introduction of CTOs in Bill 68

Bill 68 – Ontario legislation that came into force as an Act on December 01, 2000 – included the introduction of Community Treatment Orders (CTOs).

Why was the Mental Health Act amended?

The Mental Health Act was amended to ensure that people with serious mental illness get the care they need. CTOs provide alternatives to inpatient psychiatric hospitals as recommended by coroner's juries, members of community organizations and associations, families, police and mental health professionals.

What is a Community Treatment Order?

A CTO is a legal tool that will allow people with severe and persistent mental illness to receive treatment or care and supervision in the community that is less restrictive than being detained in a psychiatric facility.

When can a CTO be issued?

The criteria for issuing an order include:

- During the previous three year period the person has been in a psychiatric facility on two or more separate occasions or for a cumulative period of 30 days or more;
- A community treatment plan for the person has been made;
- Examination by a physician within the previous 72 hours before entering into the community treatment plan;
- The person is able to comply with the community treatment plan;
- Consultation of the person and the person's substitute decision-maker, if any, with a rights adviser; and
- Consent by the person or the person's substitute decision-maker to the Community Treatment Order.

How long does a Community Treatment Order last?

CTOs are valid for six months unless they are renewed or terminated at an earlier date:

- By the physician upon the request of the person or his or her substitute decision-maker;
- Where the person fails to comply with the CTO; or
- When the person or his or her substitute decision-maker withdraws consent to the community treatment plan.

How are the person's rights protected?

Safeguards have been put in place to ensure the rights of a person subject to the order are respected. The CTO process is consent-based and all statutory protections governing "informed consent" apply. With adequate rights advice and legal advice, the consent of a person subject to a CTO, or his or her substitute decision-maker has given consent that relates to the treatment, is informed, is given voluntarily and not obtained through misrepresentation or fraud.

CTO Community Care staff

The CTO Community Care staff promote regular liaison with all key stakeholders in the Southeastern Ontario District, ensuring a comprehensive seamless continuum of core treatment and support services exists between hospital and community-based settings.

Their key objective is to enhance accessibility and improve integration of services to facilitate the implementation of Community Treatment Orders.

www.providencecare.ca

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Southeastern Ontario
District

Michael P. MaGill
Case Coordinators
Providence Care
Mental Health Services
752 King Street West
Postal Bag 603
Kingston, ON
K7L 4X3
Tel: (613) 548-5567
ext. 5894
Cell: (613) 530-5685
Fax: (613) 548-5588

Or

6 Glenn Wood Place
Suite 203 Brockville, ON
K6N 2T3
Tel: (613) 342-8200
Fax: (613) 342-0304

