



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of
Health and Social Services**

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
Alaska Psychiatric Institute

3700 Piper Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4677
Main: 907.269.7100
Fax: 907.269.7128

July 16, 2013

Mental Health Advocates
Faith Myers / Dorrance Collins
3240 Penland Pkwy, Sp. 35
Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Ms. Myers and Mr. Collins,

Thank you for your thoughtful inquiry regarding psychiatric patients' rights. Unfortunately, the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Behavioral Health is not able to respond in detail to all of your questions because the majority would require additional facts and legal analysis.

Generally speaking, persons receiving treatment at community mental health centers have the rights outlined in 7 AAC 71.200 – 7 AAC 71.220. Grievance procedures at community mental health centers are addressed in 7 AAC 71.220. Patients subject to involuntary or voluntary treatment at Designated Evaluation and Treatment Facilities or the Alaska Psychiatric Institute have a number of rights defined by statute in AS 47.30.670 – AS 47.30.915. Grievance procedures for these patients may be found in AS 47.30.847.

Specific answers to your questions require an understanding of the specific facts involved. Since The Disability Law Center of Alaska is the designated protection and advocacy system for the State of Alaska, your questions are best directed to and answered by The Disability Law Center of Alaska, 3330 Arctic Blvd., Anchorage, AK 99503, telephone (907) 565-1002.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Streur".

William J. Streur
Commissioner

cc: Senator Johnny Ellis
Representative Geran Tarr
Mike Lesmann