

You have the right to:

- receive information about your rights and have your questions answered
- nominate a nominated person (see nominated persons brochure)
- participate in making your treatment, support and discharge plan
- privacy and confidentiality
- access your medical records (this right may be restricted)
- a further opinion from another psychiatrist – you can ask your psychiatrist, or the Chief Psychiatrist (t: 08 6553 0000) to arrange this
- access the Mental Health Advocacy Service (t: 1800 999 057). A mental health advocate will automatically contact you within 7 days (24 hours for children) of you becoming an involuntary patient
- make a complaint to your mental health service or the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office (HaDSCO) (t: 1800 813 583)
- have your case reviewed by the Mental Health Tribunal (t: 08 6553 0060). The Tribunal will schedule a hearing within 5 weeks (10 days for children) of you becoming an involuntary patient.

Further information

The information in this brochure relates to the laws set out in the *Mental Health Act 2014*. Information about the Act is summarised in the following set of brochures:

- Being referred to a psychiatrist for an examination
- Inpatient treatment orders
- Community treatment orders
- Information for voluntary patients
- Receiving treatment for a mental illness
- Information for personal support persons
- Nominated persons: how to make a nomination and what it means.

Other brochures are available from:

- The Mental Health Tribunal
- The Mental Health Advocacy Service
- The Mental Health Law Centre.

For more information about the *Mental Health Act 2014* and other resources, visit the Mental Health Commission website: www.mhc.wa.gov.au or phone (08) 6553 0600.

This document can be made available in other languages and alternative formats on request.

Published by the Mental Health Commission (2025)



Mental Health
Commission



Community treatment orders

A community treatment order (Form 5A) is an order under the *Mental Health Act 2014* for you to receive treatment as an involuntary patient in the community.

This brochure provides you with information about what your rights are and what you can expect if you are on a community treatment order.

Why was the community treatment order made?

If you are on a community treatment order (Form 5A) this is because a psychiatrist examined you and decided that:

- you have a mental illness that requires treatment,
- there is a significant risk to yourself or another person if you do not get treatment,
- you are not well enough to be able to make a decision about treatment,
- you do not need to be admitted to a hospital to get treatment, and
- there is no less restrictive way of providing you with treatment other than a community treatment order.

What does the community treatment order mean for you?

A community treatment order means that you can continue to live in the community (for example at home or in a hostel), however you are an involuntary patient and must accept the treatment that has been planned for you.

At least once a month you will have an examination by your supervising psychiatrist or another practitioner, and you must attend these. You must follow all the directions made by your supervising psychiatrist. These are set out in the terms of your community treatment order.

What if you do not comply with the order?

If you do not comply with your order, (for example by not attending appointments or not following your treatment plan), and your psychiatrist has taken all reasonable steps to get you to comply, then you are in breach of the community treatment order.

Your psychiatrist will give you a 'Notice of Breach' telling you that you have not complied, and what you need to do to comply.

If you still do not comply you may be sent an 'Order to Attend', which will be a form ordering you to go to a particular place, (such as a clinic or hospital), at a particular time for your treatment. If you still do not comply, a police officer or a transport officer may be sent to pick you up and take you to a place where you will be given treatment.

How long does a community treatment order last?

A community treatment order can last for up to 3 months. The end date of the order will be written on the Form 5A, which you will get a copy of.

In the last week of the order, your supervising psychiatrist will decide whether the order needs to be continued. The psychiatrist can continue the order for up to 3 months. A community treatment order can be

continued as many times as necessary until you are well enough to no longer need involuntary treatment.

If you do not agree that your order should be continued, you can ask your psychiatrist to arrange a further opinion from another psychiatrist. The second psychiatrist must see you within 14 days to decide whether the order is to continue or not. If you ask for a further opinion but do not get one, the order cannot be continued (unless the further opinion is not provided because you did not attend the appointment, in which case the order continues).

How does the community treatment order end?

At any time while you are a patient, the psychiatrist can decide that:

- it expires and is not continued, or at any time, your psychiatrist decides that you are well enough for the community treatment order to be cancelled, or
- your psychiatrist examines you and decides that you need treatment in hospital, and makes an inpatient treatment order, or
- the Mental Health Tribunal reviews your the Mental Health Tribunal reviews your case and decides that you no longer need to be an involuntary patient.