

Notice for Early Intervention Commitments

Early intervention is a form of involuntary treatment. Under this procedure, a person who has a mental illness can be involuntarily treated even though not ill enough to meet the commitment standard. The hope for early intervention is that the court will use less restrictive services.

When may a court order early intervention?

All of the following factors must be supported by **clear and convincing evidence**:

- the person is mentally ill;
- the person refuses to accept treatment; and
- person's illness is manifested by grossly disturbed behavior or faulty perceptions

And Either:

- grossly disturbed behavior or faulty perceptions interfere with that person's ability to care for themselves and that person, when competent, would have chosen very similar treatment

Or

- the person received court-ordered treatment twice in the previous three years; and
- the person is showing similar symptoms, which led to one or more prior commitments and is expected to deteriorate to that point again.

The court must also find that early intervention is **less intrusive than commitment**. Further, the court must find that early intervention is the **least restrictive treatment program available that can meet your treatment needs**.

What rights do I have under early intervention?

Your rights under early intervention are the same as under the standard commitment procedures. Including:

- **Right to an attorney**
- **Right to present witnesses**
- **Right to appeal**
- **Right to a second examiner**
- **Right to a full court hearing**

REMEMBER . . .

If you are involuntarily treated under early intervention, you have rights during your treatment. Contact our Civil Commitment Resource Center if you would like a copy of these rights.

What kind of treatment can be ordered under early intervention?

The court may order a variety of treatment alternatives, including:

- Day treatment
- Medication monitoring
- 21 days of hospitalization

How long can I be subject to an early intervention order?

An early intervention order can not exceed 90 days.

If you need this information in another format you may request this from the County.

For more detailed information on the commitment process, cost of care, emergency hold or effective legal representation contact the **Office of the Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, 121 7th Place E, Ste 420, St. Paul, MN 55101 651-757-1800 or Toll Free 1-800-657-3506** <http://www.ombudmhdd.state.mn.us> created 1/2002 updated 3/2009