

Have You Experienced Sexual Abuse or Harassment?

You are not alone.

If you are in a behavioral health program, your treatment team must review your treatment plan to meet your needs and ensure your safety. If the staff have not responded to your complaint appropriately, **contact DRM**. We may be able to:

- Investigate your complaint
- Help your treatment team develop safety measures
- Advocate for you to receive trauma-informed care
- Give you advice and resources to help you advocate for yourself

For additional resources and support, please contact:

- **Sexual Assault Legal Institute**
301-565-2277
1-877-496-SALI
- **Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network**
www.rainn.org
1-800-656-HOPE



Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) is a non-profit law firm that provides free legal and advocacy services for people with disabilities. **We do not work for any hospital, facility, or residential treatment center.**

As Maryland's Protection and Advocacy (P&A) agency, DRM monitors and investigates facilities to prevent abuse, neglect, and rights violations.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact us:

1500 Union Avenue, Suite 2000
Baltimore, Maryland 21211

Phone: 410-727-6352
Toll-free: 1-800-233-7201
TTY: 410-235-5387

www.DisabilityRightsMD.org



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Inappropriate Sexual Behavior

What is Inappropriate Sexual Behavior?

- Sexual assault
- Sexual harassment
- **Any** sexual contact with staff
- Pressure to perform sexual acts
- Threats of sexual contact
- Any intentional physical contact (or attempt) for the purpose of sexual arousal, dominance, or power
- Intentional indecent exposure
- Showing sexual images
- Intentionally looking at someone's naked body
- Photographing, drawing, or recording someone's naked body

*Any sexual contact without your consent, agreement, or permission is **never** OK!*

What is Sexual Harassment?

- Unwelcome sexual advances
- Sexual intimidation
- Bullying or coercion
- Requests for sexual favors
- Any other sexual conduct that creates a hostile or offensive environment

You Have the Right to Individualized Treatment

When you're admitted to a behavioral health program, the hospital or facility should make sure that you are **safe**, that your needs are met, and that you are **protected from harm**.

Within 5 days of your arrival (or within a reasonable time after your admission in a private facility), your treatment team should complete a risk assessment.

If needed, they should develop a protection plan to keep you safe. Your treatment team should consider:

- Room assignment
- Activities and programs with others
- Supervision needs
- Group or individual counseling
- Providing you with education on personal safety

You have the right to be free from physical assault, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and discrimination.

Staff is Required to Report Inappropriate Behavior

The following programs and facilities must report **inappropriate sexual behavior involving patients** if they see it happen, you tell them it happened, or staff have reason to believe it may have happened.

- State psychiatric facilities
- Hospitals with psychiatric units
- Forensic residential centers
- Intermediate care facilities for people with intellectual disabilities
- Residential treatment centers
- DDA vocational and day programs
- Residential rehabilitation programs
- Mental health vocational programs
- Psychiatric rehabilitation programs

Facilities send reports to the State and DRM. Staff cannot ignore or fail to report a complaint for any reason.

After making a report, the police, facility, Child Protective Services, or Adult Protective Services may investigate. Your providers must also revisit your treatment plan.