

§ 7509. Treatment; right of access

(a) Upon admission to the hospital pursuant to section 7503 ~~THIS ADDS VOLUNTARY PATIENTS, WHO SHOULD NOT BE EXCLUDED FROM THIS SECTION~~, 7508, 7617, or 7624 of this title or when held for admission at a hospital pursuant to section 7504 and 7505 of this title, the person shall be treated with dignity and respect and shall be given such medical and psychiatric treatment as is indicated.

(b) The person shall be given the opportunity, subject to reasonable limitations, to communicate with others, including visits by a peer support person designated by the person, presence of the peer support person at all treatment team meetings the person is entitled to attend, the reasonable use of a telephone, and the reasonable use of electronic mail and the internet.

(c) All persons admitted or held for admission shall receive a notice of rights as provided for in 18 V.S.A. § 7701, which shall include contact information for Vermont Legal Aid, the Office of the Mental Health Care Ombudsman, and the mental health

patient representative. The Department of Mental Health shall develop and regularly update informational material on available peer-run support services, which shall be provided to all persons admitted or held for admission.

~~(c)~~(d) The person shall be requested to furnish the names of persons he or she may want notified of his or her hospitalization and kept informed of his or her status. The head of the hospital shall see that such persons are notified of the status of the patient, how he or she may be contacted and visited, and how they may obtain information concerning him or her. (Added 1977, No. 252 (Adj. Sess.), § 16; amended 1997, No. 114 (Adj. Sess.), § 1a.)

§ 7615. Hearing

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(e) The proposed patient may at his or her election attend the hearing, subject to⁷ reasonable rules of conduct, and the court may exclude all persons, excepting a peer support person designated by the proposed patient, not necessary for the conduct of the hearing. (Added 1977, No. 252 (Adj. Sess.), § 22; amended 2009, No. 154 (Adj. Sess.), § 238.)