



*California's Protection & Advocacy System  
Toll-Free (800) 776-5746*

## Med-Cal Mental Health Entitlement!!!

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Did you know that there is an entitlement to mental health services in California? It's true. It's been true since the Medi-Cal program started in 1966. Children, adults and older adults who qualify for Medi-Cal are entitled to needed services. Federal and state laws mandate it.

Medi-Cal mental health services expanded greatly with the adoption of targeted case management in 1991 and rehabilitative mental health services in 1993. These services can be provided in a variety of community settings and at home if necessary. Each county must provide all covered services including the following:

- Targeted Case Management (aid to access housing, supports, work)
- Mental Health Services (counseling, assessment, service plan development)
- Rehabilitation (individualized assistance with recovery goals)
- Crisis Intervention, Stabilization, & Residential Services (including at home)
- Transitional Residential Programs (up to 18 months)
- Medication Support Services (including informed consent and plan development)

- *If you are a consumer, you have a right to services based on your goals. All services must be provided in accordance with a service plan that you should sign, and receive a copy of.*
- *If you are a family member, you are encouraged to participate with your loved one.*
- *If you are a provider, you can support a beneficiary to receive desired services.*
- *If you are an advocate, you can assist a client in appealing the denial of a service.*

**Call Disability Rights California  
at 800-776-5746  
for more information.**

Federal law requires that all services be provided with reasonable promptness. Waiting lists due to program funding limitations are illegal.

*Disability Rights California is funded by a variety of sources, for a complete list of funders, go to <http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/Documents/ListofGrantsAndContracts.html>.*