



Reporting Poor Treatment by the Police & Hospital Staff

People with mental disorders can become victims of poor and unjust treatment by police officers and medical staff (doctors, EMTs, nurses, etc.).

According to the National Bureau of Justice,
two-thirds of people in jail have mental health problems.

Poor people and minorities are especially vulnerable to be sent to jail for a mental health crisis that is mistaken as criminal behavior.

Examples of Poor Treatment



- Unnecessary force and violence.
- Denial of entitled services or rights (i.e. phone calls, release of medical records, etc.).
- Denial of medication.
- Not being read rights or being committed to a facility against your will without your notification.

If you have been treated poorly or been harmed by any medical provider or law enforcement officer, keep the following things in mind:

- If you are mentally well and stabilized and can remember the incident that occurred, write the specifics down.
- When did the incident occur (Day, Time)?
- What happened?
- Who was involved? If you do not know the person's name, give a physical description and any other identifying information (badge number).
- Write down the facility where the incident occurred.

Taking Legal Action

- If you want to take legal action, call the National Alliance on Mental Illness Helpline for information about a lawyer for counsel. For more information visit: <http://bit.ly/NAMIHelpLine>
- If you are seriously mentally ill, but can remember the incident that occurred, have a trusted mental health professional or family member help you to report the incident.
- File a complaint with the facility or police departments by contacting a lawyer first for the most effective steps. Filing a complaint with the facility or police department that committed the wrongdoing may not get any serious attention.
- Consulting with a lawyer first can present you with the best and most timely options.