

**FORM 16.2 - MENTAL HEALTH ACT
NOTIFICATION TO NEAR RELATIVE
OF ADMISSION OF PATIENT UNDER AGE 16
ON REQUEST OF A PARENT OR GUARDIAN**

(Sections 34.2 and 34.3, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 288) HLTH 3516.2 2025/07/30

To: _____
First and Last Name of Near Relative

You have been chosen as a “near relative” of a patient in a mental health facility. This means:

- you are a family member, friend, caregiver, companion, guardian, or representative of the patient, and
- you will get notifications about the patient’s stay in the mental health facility, including when they are admitted or released, or if they request a hearing with the Mental Health Review Board.

This notification is to give you information only. You don’t have to take any further action.

The following youth is a patient under age 16 admitted on request of their parent or guardian at the mental health facility listed below:

PATIENT AND DESIGNATED FACILITY INFORMATION	
First and Last Name of Youth	Date of Admission (DD / MM / YYYY)
Designated Facility Name	City / Town
Name of Director of Designated Facility	

The parent or guardian asked that this youth be a patient in the facility listed above. A doctor or nurse practitioner assessed the youth and their opinion is:

- they are experiencing a serious mental health issue, and
- they need psychiatric treatment.

The facility must provide the youth with appropriate care, treatment, and support. There is more information about what it means to be a patient under age 16 admitted on request of a parent or guardian on page 2 of this form.

For more information about the facility listed above, see the Health Services Directory available at [HealthLinkBC.ca](https://www.healthlinkbc.ca). For help searching the directory, call **8-1-1** (within B.C. only) to speak with a health service navigator.

Patients under age 16 have rights under the *Mental Health Act*. A family member, friend, caregiver, or other representative may act on behalf of a patient in some circumstances. There is more information on page 2 of this form.

NOTIFICATION DETAILS		
Date Notification Sent (DD / MM / YYYY)	Method of Notification <input type="radio"/> Hand Delivery <input type="radio"/> Registered Mail – list address → <input type="radio"/> Secure Electronic Delivery →	Registered Mail Address
Time Notification Sent (24HR HH:MM)		City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____ Email Address _____
Additional Details		

FOR FACILITY USE ONLY		
<input type="checkbox"/> Receipt of notification to near relative was confirmed on:	Date (DD / MM / YYYY)	Confirmation / Tracking Number (if applicable)

Information about patients under age 16 admitted on request of a parent or guardian under the *Mental Health Act*



How does a youth under age 16 become a patient at a facility on request of a parent or guardian?

A parent or guardian can ask that a youth under age 16 become a patient in a mental health facility. A doctor or nurse practitioner must assess the youth and form the opinion they meet the following criteria under the *Mental Health Act*:

1. They have a mental disorder that seriously impairs their ability to react appropriately to their environment or associate with other people.
2. They need psychiatric treatment.

The doctor or nurse practitioner must write the reasons they believe the youth meets these criteria in their medical record.

When possible, the treatment team will involve the youth in planning their treatment. The youth might have to take medication or other forms of treatment even if they do not want to. The youth's parent or guardian may also be involved in deciding the plan.



How long does a patient under age 16 have to stay in the mental health facility?

After a doctor or nurse practitioner assesses the youth and they are admitted to the facility, the youth might have to stay for up to 1 month. A doctor must assess the youth regularly to check their progress. The youth will be able to leave the facility:

- as soon as a doctor's opinion is the youth no longer meets the criteria to be kept in the facility, or
- if their parent or guardian asks that they be released from the facility.

If a doctor's opinion is the youth still meets the criteria, their stay in the facility could be renewed.

- The first renewal period is for up to another month.
- The second renewal period is for up to 3 months.
- Each renewal period after that is for up to 6 months.



What is the role of a Rights Advisor?

Patients under age 16 can meet with a Rights Advisor. A Rights Advisor can provide information about their rights and options under the *Mental Health Act*. They support the youth to make decisions. Their help is free.

Rights Advisors do not work for the government, facility, or treatment team. Meetings with a Rights Advisor are private. The youth can choose to invite a support person (e.g., family member, friend) to their Rights Advice meeting.



How does the youth get a review panel hearing?

A patient under age 16 can ask for a review panel if they do not agree that they should be a patient in the facility.

There are 3 people on the panel who hear the youth's case and decide whether the youth still meets the criteria to be kept in the mental health facility. The people on the panel do not work for the government, facility, or treatment team. The panel cannot decide about the youth's treatment.

A review panel hearing can be requested each time the youth's stay in a mental health facility is renewed. Each hearing is free.

A family member, friend, or other representative can also apply for a review panel hearing on behalf of the youth. To apply for a hearing, fill out **Form 7: Application for Review Panel Hearing**.

If an application is made for a review panel hearing, the youth and a near relative will be informed of the time and date of the hearing. The near relative has the right to take part in the review process.



Can a judge review the case in court?

A patient under age 16 can apply to the court to ask a judge to review their case. A family member, friend, or other representative can also apply to the court on behalf of the youth. There are 2 options:

1. The judge can see if there is evidence that proper procedures were followed and there is legal authority to keep the youth as a patient in the facility. This is called a *habeas corpus* application. It protects people from unlawful detention.
2. The judge can see if there is enough reason or legal authority to keep the youth as a patient in the facility. This is called a Section 33 application.

A lawyer might be needed to help with a court application. There could be a cost for this service.

The youth has the right to contact a lawyer at any time.