



## Your Rights

An Official Representative should tell you your rights under this Act as soon as possible after you are brought to the first doctor for a substance abuse assessment. You have the right to:

- get help from the Official Representative free of charge;
- know why a judge issued a warrant for you to be picked up by the police and taken to a doctor for assessment;
- get a copy of the Detoxification Order or Community Order;
- appeal the involuntary detox and stabilization order to a Review Panel; and
- appeal the Review Panel's decision to the Court of Queen's Bench.

## How Judges Decide to Issue a Warrant

If you find yourself in this situation, it is probably because people who care for you felt they could do nothing else. This Act is only used for the most severe cases of drug or alcohol abuse. The person applying to the judge must show to the satisfaction of the judge that you:

- are suffering from severe drug or alcohol addiction or abuse;
- are a risk to yourself or another person;
- need to be confined to a safe place for your own safety, and for the safety of others or to help you to detoxify and stabilize; and
- need an assessment by a doctor to see if you should be sent to a detox facility or get detoxification and stabilization in your community.

The person applying, must provide evidence of all four conditions for the court to consider issuing a warrant. Then you will be tested by two separate doctors. You will be advised of your rights when you see the first doctor, and a lawyer called an Official Representative will be contacted for you too.

### To contact the Official Representative

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

# Your Rights under the

## Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Act



Saskatchewan  
Health

# Your Rights Under the

## *Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Act*

***The Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Act was made law in Saskatchewan on April 1, 2006.***

You are reading this because a doctor is assessing you for substance abuse without your permission. Another doctor will repeat the assessment in the next 24 hours.

There are two ways this can happen according to the Act:

1. Someone who knows you very well has gone to a judge about your abuse of drugs, alcohol, or other substances. After reviewing the information, the judge concluded that your problem was very serious and ordered you to be brought to a doctor for an assessment. The judge issued a warrant so a police officer could apprehend you and bring you to a doctor for an assessment.
2. A police officer watched you and felt that you were suffering from severe drug or alcohol addiction and posed an immediate risk of danger to yourself or others.

**To contact the Saskatchewan Children's Advocate call 1-800-322-7221**

# How the Act Works

Once the first doctor finishes assessing you, the doctor has three choices:

1. If the doctor decides your substance abuse problem isn't completely out of control, you will no longer be detained. The doctor might ask you to get help to stop abusing drugs, alcohol, or other substances. You can decide if you want this help. The doctor can help you get in touch with the Addictions Services office in your health region, if you want.

If the doctor decides that your drug or alcohol problem is severe and you need help right now, he or she will make what's called an involuntary detoxification order or community order. The doctor can order you into detox even if you don't want to go. You might end up in:

2. Your home community for up to 30 days. You would live at home or in some other safe place while you receive services. This is called a community order.
3. A live-in, locked place where you will detox and stabilize for up to 5 days with the possibility of renewal for two additional five day periods. This is called an involuntary detoxification order.

A second doctor will assess you in the next 24 hours to check that the decision made by the first doctor was the right decision. If the second doctor disagrees with the assessment of the first doctor, the order is automatically terminated.

# If you disagree with the doctor

The Official Representative represents you and protects your rights.

Before the first doctor assesses you, he or she will make contact with a lawyer called the Official Representative so you are informed of your rights. This brochure also informs you of your rights.

You may ask to appeal the detox and stabilization order. This request must be in writing. The Official Representative can help you ask for an appeal to a Review Panel. Once the Review Panel receives your request, they will tell you the date, time, and location of the hearing. A Review Panel decides if you should remain subject to the order. They must tell you their decision within two business days.

If the Review Panel thinks you should continue to receive involuntary detox, you have the right to appeal their decision to the Court of Queen's Bench. The Official Representative can help you with this appeal as well.

