



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SCR 1005

rights of caregivers; recognition
Prime Sponsor: Senator Barto, LD 15

DP Committee on Health
DP Caucus and COW
X House Engrossed

OVERVIEW

SCR 1005 urges the Arizona legislature to recognize the rights of family members, caregivers and guardians of individuals with serious mental illness.

PROVISIONS

1. Urges the members of the legislature to recognize that family members, caregivers and guardians of an individual with serious mental illness have the right to:
 - a. Communicate with all providers of behavioral health care services for that individual;
 - b. Be treated with respect and compassion when seeking the appropriate treatment and care for that individual;
 - c. Receive access to approved information during discharge planning if there is an executed release of information on file or if a valid guardianship is in place;
 - d. Receive information that will enable them to effectively evaluate the safety and security of their homes on discharge of that individual into their care;
 - e. Expect to receive information relating to support services available in the community at all levels of service, including family support, education, counseling and grief counseling; and
 - f. File a grievance, complaint or concern without fear of retaliation and to expect to receive information regarding the process of such filings.
2. Requests that the members of the legislature recognize that family members, caregivers and guardians of an individual with serious mental illness to make every effort to establish a complete medical history that includes information received from family members, caregivers and guardians and to actively include family members, caregivers and guardians in treatment planning.

CURRENT LAW

Not currently addressed in statute.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SCR 1005 states that family members, caregivers and guardians of an individual with a serious mental illness are recognized as an integral part of that individual's treatment team. It also states that it is in the best interests of individuals with a serious mental illness for their behavioral health care providers to have access to any critical medical information and history known to family members, caregivers and guardians in order to enhance treatment, and under federal and state law allows them to share this information. Existing federal and state laws allow for family members, caregivers and guardians of an individual with a serious mental illness to share critical medical information and history with that individual's behavioral health care providers.

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Additionally, it states that it is not in the best interests of an individual with a serious mental illness to be discharged to a family member, caregiver or guardian without first equipping that family member, caregiver or guardian with sufficient information and resources to provide adequate supportive and ongoing care.