**§20048. Visitation and communication of patients**

**1. Hours of visitation.**  Subject to reasonable rules regarding hours of visitation that the commissioner may adopt, patients in any approved treatment facility must be granted opportunities for adequate consultation with counsel and for continuing contact with family and friends consistent with an effective treatment program.

[PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. AA, §41 (AMD).]

**2. Communication.**  Mail or other communication to or from a patient in any approved treatment facility may not be intercepted, read or censored. The commissioner may adopt reasonable rules regarding the use of telephones by patients in approved treatment facilities.

[PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. AA, §41 (AMD).]

**3. Restrictions.**  The patient may exercise all civil rights, including, but not limited to, civil service status; the right to vote; rights relating to the granting, renewal, forfeiture or denial of a license, permit, privilege or benefit pursuant to any law; and the right to enter contractual relationships and to manage the patient's property, except:

A. To the extent the commissioner determines that it is necessary for the medical welfare of the patient to impose restrictions, unless the patient has been restored to legal capacity; or [PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. AA, §41 (AMD).]

B. When specifically restricted by other laws or rules. [PL 1989, c. 934, Pt. A, §3 (NEW).]

Restrictions on the exercise of civil rights may not be imposed on any patient solely because of the fact of that person's admission to a mental hospital.

[PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. AA, §41 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 934, §A3 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. AA, §41 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature and is current through October 15, 2024
. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.