

Do You Know?

In the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017:

- **Rights given to persons with mental illnesses:**
 1. Access and availability of mental healthcare at par with regular healthcare at Government facilities [Section 18(1)]
 2. No cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment [Section 20]
 3. To be treated equal to persons with physical illness while providing healthcare
 4. Free legal aid to exercise their rights [Section 27]
- **A citizen can make a written Advance Directive to decide:**
 1. Care and treatment to/not to be given for mental illness
 2. Nominated Representative to make mental healthcare and treatment decisions on his behalf
- **Person attempting suicide – not to be punished under Indian Penal Code, presumed to be under stress and provided care, treatment and rehabilitation to reduce risk of recurrence. [Section 115]**
- **Child less than three years not to be separated from his mentally ill mother.**
- **Poor people to get free treatment for mental illnesses. [Section 18(7)]**
- **Free medicines for mental illness will be provided to all patients at all Government facilities. [Section 18(10)]**



Issued in public interest by:

NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMME

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