



Legal
Services
Society

British Columbia
www.lss.bc.ca

Providing legal aid and legal education for British Columbia

Legal aid facts

Mental health law services

***Mental Health Act* review panels**

People involuntarily detained in a health care facility under the *Mental Health Act* have a right to have their detention reconsidered by a Mental Health Review Panel.

LSS maintains a contract with an outside agency to provide assistance for these hearings throughout the province. LSS does not issue referrals for BC Review Panel hearings.

BC Review Board hearings

Review Board hearings are held pursuant to the Criminal Code to review the detention of persons found by the courts to be not criminally responsible for an offence by reason of a mental disorder, or unfit to stand trial.

These people have the right to counsel at the hearings, as review boards make decisions about their liberty. The Legal Services Society provides legal representation to financially eligible persons at these hearings.

These services are provided through the Community Legal Assistance Society in the Lower Mainland and by private lawyers elsewhere in the province.