

ADVOCATE FOR YOUR RIGHTS!

People getting care for drug or alcohol use have the same rights as people getting care for any other medical issue.

Addiction treatment facilities licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) have to follow a set of rules. Some examples include:

- You **can not** be denied treatment because you are on a prescribed medication
- Programs that provide any type of residential service **can not discharge you to a homeless shelter or the street** as part of your treatment plan

You can read the full list of regulations here:

[mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/regs/105cmr164.pdf](https://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/regs/105cmr164.pdf)

If you believe your rights have been violated, you have been harmed by a provider or treatment facility, or have received care not up to current quality standards:

you should report this immediately to MA DPH.

To file a report, call the confidential complaint line:

617-624-5171

If you have been **denied medication for addiction treatment (MAT) in the criminal justice or child welfare system**, the U.S. Department of Justice considers this a violation of your rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Information on how to file an ADA complaint can be found here:

https://www.ada.gov/filing_complaint.htm

What about sober homes (also known as Alcohol and Drug Free housing)?

There is **no requirement** that sober homes become certified to operate legally in Massachusetts; certification and monitoring are **completely voluntary**.

Certification of sober/ADF homes is overseen by the Massachusetts Alliance for Sober Housing (MASH). To become certified sober/ADF homes must meet certain requirements.

A full list of certified sober homes, and requirements they must meet, can be found here:

mashsoberhousing.org

Under MA law, programs licensed by the MA Department of Public Health can only refer people to sober/ADF homes that are certified by MASH.

You should ask about certification when choosing a sober/ADF home.

If you feel your rights have been violated or you have been harmed by a staff member or program policy while in a ADF/sober house:

you should file a report with MASH immediately.

Reports should be filed using MASH's online grievance submission system:

mashsoberhousing.org/grievance-policy/file-a-grievance/