



# BC MENTAL HEALTH ACT INFOBITS

Monthly MHA news, tips and resources



## MHA DIRECTOR DELEGATION AT ISLAND HEALTH

The Mental Health Act legislation requires all health authorities to appoint a **Director** who is responsible for the professional and appropriate care for persons receiving involuntary psychiatric treatment through designated facilities in their region. MHA Directors are appointed by Island Health's Board of Directors.

How do I find out who the MHA Directors in Island Health are? What is their role and responsibility? Can they authorize others in these roles and responsibilities? And who is authorized to be an MHA Director Delegate?

## HIGHLIGHT

**Island Health Mental Health Act Director Regional Authorization for Delegation of Duties outlines the processes, duties & provides up-to-date list of Designated Facility MHA Directors**

MHA Directors have been appointed by the Board of Directors to ensure:

- Involuntary psychiatric treatment is provided in a professional manner.
- Care and treatment received are appropriate to the patient's condition and the function of the designated facility.
- The facility functions under the directives and standards of the MOH.
- Delegates appointed by the Directors will exercise the Directors' authority under the MHA.

Directors and their Delegates' performance is overseen by a Senior Official appointed for the health authority. The senior Official will:

- Maintain a current list of MHA Directors within the health region
- Oversee the performance of Directors and persons authorized by them to perform the duties of the appointed director

Appointment and activities of the Directors, Delegates and Senior Official are governed by Standards for Operators and Directors of Designated Mental Health Facilities (MOH, 2020)

### EDUCATION TOOLS & RESOURCES

- [Regional MHA Delegation Matrix](#)
- [MHA Baseline Education Module](#)
- [Standards for Operators and Directors of Designated Mental Health Facilities](#)

## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MHA DIRECTOR DELEGATE

- For each involuntary admission, timely and appropriate completion of all forms is required.
- The documentation provides the legal authority for the admission and detention as well as evidence that facilities are safeguarding patients' constitutional rights in the admissions process (MOH, 2020).

- MHA Director Delegate must be a regulated health professionals in good standing with their regulatory college.
- They must have an understanding of their powers, duties and limits to those, set out in the MHA and other governing legislation.
- They also must be an employee of the healthcare provider (MOH, 2020).

- Duties of the MHA Director Delegate are to review the forms for completion & timeliness, and co-sign where their authority permits them to do so (pls, refer to the [Matrix](#) for specific forms).
- They can exercise their authority and perform duties as long as conditions of their delegation (i.e., duration, authorization and other info) is current and documented by the healthcare provider (MOH, 2020).

- Have BC MHA-related questions? Have an idea for a future newsletter topic? Reach out to: [MHASupport@islandhealth.ca](mailto:MHASupport@islandhealth.ca)
- Resources, practice support tools & past INFOBITS issues - [click here](#)

*MHA Resource Team*