

PsychRights®

Law Project for
Psychiatric Rights, Inc.

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 25, 2010

CONTACT
Jim Gottstein
907-274-7686
jim.gottstein@psychrights.org

PsychRights Files for Order Prohibiting State of Alaska from Continuing to Perpetrate Medicaid Fraud

Late yesterday the Law Project for Psychiatric Rights (PsychRights®) asked the United States District Court in Alaska to prohibit William Hogan, Alaska's Commissioner of Health and Social Services, and William Streur, its Director of Health Care Services, from continuing to defraud the federal government by submitting claims for off-label psychotropic drugs forced on children and youth that have been banned by Congress.

"Commissioner Hogan and Director Streur were informed these practices were illegal and constituted Medicaid Fraud in September of 2008, yet they have continued to flout the law and perpetuate this fraud on the federal government," said Jim Gottstein, the attorney handling the case for PsychRights, "Children and youth continue to be grievously harmed by this practice and this is the first chance we have had to try and get a court to stop the practice."

[PsychRights Motion for Preliminary Injunction Against Defendants Hogan and Streur](#) was filed in [United States ex rel Law Project for Psychiatric Rights v. Matsutani et.al](#), USDC Alaska Case No. 3:09-cv-80-TMB, which seeks \$5,500 in minimum penalties for each of thousands to millions of offending prescriptions from 32 defendants, including psychiatrists, their employers, and pharmacies.

It is Medicaid fraud to cause or submit prescriptions to Medicaid for reimbursement if they are not for a medically accepted indication. PsychRights has developed a [Medically Accepted Indications Chart](#) showing what is allowable for common psychiatric drugs. Every other use of these drugs in children and youth and submitted to Medicaid is fraudulent. The fraud is rampant, with PsychRights conservatively estimating at least half of psychotropic drug prescriptions to children and youth submitted to Medicaid are not for medically accepted indications and therefore fraudulent.

The Law Project for Psychiatric Rights is a public interest law firm devoted to the defense of people facing the horrors of forced psychiatric drugging and electroshock. PsychRights is further dedicated to exposing the truth about psychiatric interventions and the courts being misled into ordering people subjected to these brain and body damaging drugs and electroshock against their will. Extensive information about the tragic damage caused psychiatric drugs and electroshock is available on the PsychRights web site: <http://psychrights.org/>.

#