

NEWS RELEASE 11/14/07
FROM THE DESK OF
FAITH MYERS/DORRANCE COLLINS,
PSYCHIATRIC PATIENT ADVOCATES:

Alaska Psychiatric Institute, (Alaska's state-run psychiatric hospital) on Nov. 1st, '07 adopted a new formal grievance procedure for psychiatric patients, which will now give the right to patients to file a formal grievance.

API, according to their records, went for a year and maybe for years without letting patients file a formal grievance. The new API grievance procedure has several flaws but it is now one of the better grievance procedures in psychiatric facilities.

Behavioral Health created 4 pages of requirements for 82 facilities concerning their psychiatric patient grievance procedures. The rules are vague and inadequate and need to be revised. It allows facilities to keep patients from filing a formal grievance and facilities can ask for open-ended extensions.

Behavioral Health requirements also covers facilities that mainly work with those with developmental disabilities.

AS47.30.847 –psychiatric patients' grievance procedure statute is vague and needs to be revised. There is presently a legislative effort to write a bill that will be introduced at the next legislative session.

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