

What Is the Nova Scotia Patient Rights Advisor Service (PRAS)?

The **Patient Rights Advisor Service (PRAS)** is an independent organization that offers advice and assistance under the **Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act (IPTA)**. **PRAS** advisors offer their services to:

- psychiatric patients who have been involuntarily admitted
- psychiatric patients who are on a community treatment order
- psychiatric patients who are subject to a certificate of leave
- substitute decision makers (**SDMs**)
- any person undergoing an involuntary psychiatric assessment

What does the PRAS do?

The **PRAS** advisor's job is to make sure the patient and/or their **SDM** understand the patient's situation and the options available to them under the **IPTA**.

The advisor is available to

- meet with the patient and their **SDM**
- communicate in a fair, confidential, and non-judgmental way
- help the patient/**SDM** understand their situation

- help identify options for the patient
 - help fill out a Form 12 to apply to the IPTA Review Board to have the patient's case reviewed
 - help the patient apply for **Nova Scotia Legal Aid (NSLA)**
 - attend the patient's hearing as patient support
- PRAS** advisors do not advocate for or represent the patient or the **SDM**. They are neutral and non-judgmental in all interactions. They also hold all information in strictest confidence.

Who can contact the PRAS?

The hospital will contact the **PRAS** when a patient is admitted involuntarily and whenever the patient's status changes. Once **PRAS** has been notified by the hospital, they will contact the patient/**SDM** as soon as possible.

Patients and their **SDMs** can also contact **PRAS** directly for advice.

PRAS does not limit the number of contacts they have with a patient/**SDM**. Their services are free of charge.

How can you contact PRAS?

Patient Rights Advisory Service

Email: PRASADMIN@novascotia.ca

Any more questions?

You can contact any member of your care team at the hospital, your **NSLA** representative, or your **PRAS** advisor if you have any questions. Please record their information below for easy reference:

Position	Name	Telephone	Email
Attending Physician			
Assistant			
NSLA Lawyer			
Assistant			
Patient Rights Advisor			
Assistant			