

# PETITION

TO The Legislative Assembly of Ontario: -

WHEREAS under current practice, police services across Ontario retain records of accompaniment to the hospital for mental health assessment. Accompaniment to the hospital is permitted under the *Mental Health Act*. Many employers, volunteer agencies and educational facilities request a police records check prior to hiring an applicant or allowing them to volunteer if they will be working with children, seniors or persons with disabilities. Most police services release *Mental Health Act* records as part of the police records check. In order to continue the application process, the applicant must disclose the record to the potential employer or forego the position out of fear of further discrimination and the desire to keep health information confidential. The practice of releasing these records violates the privacy rights, as well as the human rights, of Ontarians with *Mental Health Act* records. We ask the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to pass legislation that would prohibit the disclosure of *Mental Health Act* records as part of the police records check process.

WE the undersigned petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows: -

The current practice of disclosing information regarding non-criminal contact with police pursuant to the *Mental Health Act* discriminates against Ontarians with both diagnosed and perceived mental health disabilities. We believe this information constitutes personal health information and as such should not be released as part of a police records check. Only criminal convictions for which a pardon has not been granted and records from the pardoned sex offender database should be released on a police records check. We petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to pass legislation which would protect the human rights of all Ontarians by prohibiting the disclosure of *Mental Health Act* records.

Name (printed)	Address (printed)	Signature



