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Code:  Section:

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**DIVISION 5. COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES [5000 - 5987]** ( *Division 5 repealed and added by Stats. 1967, Ch. 1667.* )

**PART 1. THE LANTERMAN-PETRIS-SHORT ACT [5000 - 5550]** ( *Heading of Part 1 amended by Stats. 1968, Ch. 1374.* )

**CHAPTER 6.2. Mental Health Advocacy [5500 - 5550]** ( *Heading of Chapter 6.2 renumbered from Chapter 6 (as added by Stats. 1981, Ch. 841) by Stats. 1986, Ch. 248, Sec. 251.* )

**ARTICLE 1. General Provisions [5500- 5500.]** ( *Article 1 added by Stats. 1981, Ch. 841, Sec. 7.* )

**5500.** As used in this chapter:

- (a) "Advocacy" means those activities undertaken on behalf of persons who are receiving or have received mental health services to protect their rights or to secure or upgrade treatment or other services to which they are entitled.
- (b) "Mental health client" or "client" means a person who is receiving or has received services from a mental health facility, service, or program and who has personally or through a guardian ad litem, entered into an agreement with a county patients' rights advocate for the provision of advocacy services.
- (c) "Mental health facilities, services, or programs" means a publicly operated or supported mental health facility or program; a private facility or program licensed or operated for health purposes providing services to persons with mental health disorders; and publicly supported agencies providing other than mental health services to clients with mental health disorders.
- (d) "Independent of providers of service" means that the advocate has no direct or indirect clinical or administrative responsibility for any recipient of mental health services in any mental health facility, program, or service for which he or she performs advocacy activities.
- (e) "County patients' rights advocate" means an advocate appointed, or whose services are contracted for, by a local mental health director.

(*Amended by Stats. 2014, Ch. 144, Sec. 97. (AB 1847) Effective January 1, 2015.*)