

Statutory Definition of Abuse

CGS 17a-488

Sec. 17a-488. Report of suspected abuse. Training program. Penalty for failure to report. Immunity. (a) As used in this section and section 17a-488a:

(1) "Abuse" means the wilful infliction of physical pain, injury or mental anguish, or the wilful deprivation by a caregiver of services which are necessary to maintain the physical and mental health of a patient;

(2) "Behavioral health facility" means any facility operated by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services that provides mental health or substance use disorder services to persons eighteen years of age or older;

(3) "Patient" means any person receiving services from a behavioral health facility;

(4) "Legal representative" means a court-appointed fiduciary, including a guardian or conservator, or a person with power of attorney authorized to act on a patient's behalf; and

(5) "Mandatory reporter" means (A) any person in a behavioral health facility paid to provide direct care for a patient of such facility, and (B) any employee, contractor or consultant of such facility who is a licensed healthcare provider.

FYI: "Abuse" is defined in the DMHAS chapter of the general statutes, Chapter 319i, specifically in section 17a-488, which governs reports of suspected abuse of a patient in a behavioral health facility. As stated above, this definition includes "willful deprivation by a caregiver of services necessary to maintain the physical and mental health of a patient".