



## Your Rights in the Mental Health System

- Mississippi [state law](#) says that the following services ***SHALL*** be available to children with serious emotional and behavioral challenges:
  - Comprehensive crisis and emergency response services;
  - Intensive case management;
  - Day treatment;
  - Alcohol and drug abuse group services
  - Individual, group and family therapy;
  - Respite services;
  - Supported employment services for youth;
  - Family education and support and family partners;
  - Youth development and support and youth partners;
  - Positive behavioral supports (PBIS) in schools;
  - Transition-age supported and independent living services; and
  - Vocational/technical education services for youth.

And that the way these services are provided ***SHALL*** be:

- Child centered, family focused, [family driven](#) and youth guided;
- Community based
- Culturally competent and responsive; and ***SHALL*** provide for:
  - (i) *Service coordination or case management;*
  - (ii) *Prevention and early identification and intervention;*
  - (iii) *Smooth transitions among agencies and providers, and to the transition-age and*



*adult service systems;*

*(iv) Human rights protection and advocacy;*

*(v) Nondiscrimination in access to services;*

*(vi) A comprehensive array of services composed of treatment and informal supports that are identified as best practices and/or evidence-based practices;*

*(vii) Individualized service planning that uses a strengths-based, wraparound process;*

*(viii) Services in the least restrictive environment;*

*(ix) Family participation in all aspects of planning, service delivery and evaluation; and*

*(x) Integrated services with coordinated planning across child-serving agencies.*

If you have questions or concerns about the help your child needs or if you believe the mental health services your child receives don't follow state law, you can contact the Mississippi Department of Mental Health 24-hour helpline at 1-877-210-8513.

- There is a Federal Law, [the Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment \(EPSDT\)](#) law that states children who receive Medicaid should get screened early and at regular intervals for social and emotional problems and then get the right kind of help from qualified providers if they need it.

In 2010, Southern Poverty Law Center [sued](#) Mississippi for not following the EPSDT law. That lawsuit is still in Federal Court. The United States Department of Justice (DOJ) has also [investigated](#) Mississippi for not following this law. If you would like to contact either of these organizations about your child's experiences with getting services:

- [Southern Poverty Law Center](#), Jody Owens, 601-948-8882
- United States [Department](#) of Justice, Beth Kelley, 202-514-0460