

## How Long Does a CTO Last?

- Lasts six months.
- It expires unless renewed by a physician.
- It can be terminated early if specific criteria are met.

## What Happens if the Person Does Not Comply with a CTO?

The CTO treatment team will make every effort to assist the person to comply with their CTO treatment plan.

If the person is demonstrating non-compliance with the conditions of the CTO, the physician may sign an order to examine the person (Form 47). This order for examination authorizes the police to take the person to the physician who signed the CTO or to another appointed physician. The Form 47 is used as a last resort but allows for timely intervention.

## Can a CTO be Cancelled?

The person, or their substitute decision-maker if applicable, can ask the physician to review the person's condition to determine whether the person can live in the community without a CTO. If the physician decides the CTO criteria no longer apply, the CTO can be terminated.



Halton Healthcare

[www.haltonhealthcare.com](http://www.haltonhealthcare.com)

## CTO Program at Halton Healthcare Services

The CTO Program offers co-ordination and clinical case management.

- The CTO Co-ordinator provides consultation with the CTO issuing process, treatment plan development, accessing local community-based services and facilitating rights advice.
- The CTO Case Manager is available for support, psychiatric monitoring and establishing linkages with community supports and agencies.

**For further information, contact:  
CTO Co-ordinator**

**Halton Healthcare Services  
Adult Mental Health Services  
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Pamphlet intended for general information only.  
Please refer to the Mental Health Act at Ontario  
Government Website:  
<http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca>

# Community Treatment Orders

## Questions and Answers



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## What is a Community Treatment Order (CTO)?

A Community Treatment Order (CTO) is a signed legal agreement that allows persons with a severe and persistent mental illness to receive treatment, support and supervision in their own community instead of being in the hospital.

## What is the History of Community Treatment Orders in Ontario?

The provincial government introduced Bill 68 (also referred to as Brian's Law) as an amendment to existing mental health legislation on December 1, 2000. This law includes an option for Community Treatment Orders (CTOs) and expands the committal criteria which allows families and health professionals to intervene at an earlier stage of a person's mental illness.

## Who Can Issue a Community Treatment Order?

Only a physician can issue a CTO.

## Can Anyone with a Serious Mental Illness be on a Community Treatment Order?

No. CTOs are intended for persons with a serious mental illness who have a history of repeated hospitalizations and have shown benefit from treatment. However, after hospital discharge they do not engage in outpatient follow-up treatment.

A CTO can only be issued or renewed for persons who meet specific criteria of the Mental Health Act. Below are some criteria:

- In the last three years, the person has been an inpatient in a psychiatric facility two times or more or for a total of at least 30 days, or has been on a previous CTO;
- Appropriate supports and resources are available in the person's community to provide the treatment or care and supervision they need to maintain stability at home;
- Before the CTO is signed, a comprehensive plan of community-based treatment that the person can comply with must be prepared.

## What is a Community Treatment Plan?

A written community treatment plan is an essential part of the CTO. It is developed

collaboratively with input from all involved parties, including the person, their substitute decision-maker if applicable, the physician and any mental health professionals or agencies. The following may be outlined in the plan:

- Description of services provided with their names and addresses;
- Where, when and how often the person will have appointments with the physician and service providers;
- Types of medications and how often the person will take them.

## What Protection Exists Under the Law?

- The person, or their substitute decision-maker if applicable, must consent to the community treatment plan and the CTO.
- The person and their substitute decision-maker if applicable, must receive rights advice before the CTO is signed. The rights advisor will review the community treatment plan, the significance of the order, the person's right to legal counsel and what may happen if the person does not comply during the CTO.
- The person, or anyone acting on their behalf, has the right to apply to the Consent and Capacity Board to review the CTO after it is issued.