

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila

Seventeenth Congress

Second Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-fourth
day of July, two thousand seventeen.



[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11036]

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH
POLICY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENHANCING THE
DELIVERY OF INTEGRATED MENTAL HEALTH
SERVICES, PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE
RIGHTS OF PERSONS UTILIZING PSYCHIATRIC,
NEUROLOGIC AND PSYCHOSOCIAL HEALTH
SERVICES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the
Philippines in Congress assembled:*

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as
the “Mental Health Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State affirms the basic right of all Filipinos to mental health as well as the fundamental rights of people who require mental health services.

The State commits itself to promoting the well-being of people by ensuring that: mental health is valued, promoted and protected; mental health conditions are treated and prevented; timely, affordable, high-quality, and culturally-appropriate mental health care is made available to the public; mental health services are free from coercion and accountable to the service users; and persons affected by mental health conditions are able to exercise the full range of human rights, and participate fully in society and at work, free from stigmatization and discrimination.

The State shall comply strictly with its obligations under the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and all other relevant international and regional human rights conventions and declarations. The applicability of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, otherwise known as the “Magna Carta for Disabled Persons”, to persons with mental health conditions, as defined herein, is expressly recognized.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – The objectives of this Act are as follows:

(a) Strengthen effective leadership and governance for mental health by, among others, formulating, developing, and implementing national policies, strategies, programs, and regulations relating to mental health;

(b) Develop and establish a comprehensive, integrated, effective, and efficient national mental health care system responsive to the psychiatric, neurologic, and psychosocial needs of the Filipino people;

(c) Protect the rights and freedoms of persons with psychiatric, neurologic, and psychosocial health needs;

(d) Strengthen information systems, evidence and research for mental health;

(e) Integrate mental health care in the basic health services; and

(f) Integrate strategies promoting mental health in educational institutions, the workplace, and in communities.

SEC. 4. *Definitions.* – As used in this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

(a) *Addiction* refers to a primary chronic relapsing disease of brain reward, motivation, memory, and related circuitry. Dysfunctions in the circuitry lead to characteristic biological, psychological, social, and spiritual manifestations. It is characterized by the inability to consistently abstain impairment and behavioral control, craving, diminished recognition of significant problems with one's behavior and interpersonal relationships and a dysfunctional emotional response;

(b) *Carer* refers to the person, who may or may not be the patient's next-of-kin or relative, who maintains a close personal relationship and manifests concern for the welfare of the patient;

(c) *Confidentiality* refers to ensuring that all relevant information related to persons with psychiatric, neurologic, and psychosocial health needs is kept safe from access or use by, or disclosure to, persons or entities who are not authorized to access, use, or possess such information;

(d) *Deinstitutionalization* refers to the process of transitioning service users, including persons with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities, from institutional and other segregated settings, to community-based settings that enable social participation, recovery-based approaches to mental health, and individualized care in accordance with the service user's will and preference;

