



MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

## Issue Brief

# Legal and Ethical Assessment Concerning Mental and Behavioral Health Preparedness

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During and after emergencies and disasters, psychological casualties can vastly outnumber physical injuries. The identification and treatment of emergent psychological conditions during and immediately after emergencies may raise unique legal issues. Other long-term legal challenges may arise during and after emergencies relative to the treatment of individuals' chronic mental and behavioral health conditions.

The [Johns Hopkins Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Center](#) (JH~PERRC), sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, conducts research to strengthen public health preparedness systems and infrastructure, with a specific focus on mental and behavioral health.

One of the JH~PERRC's core projects, "[Legal and Ethical Assessment Concerning Mental and Behavioral Health Preparedness](#)," explores and analyzes the many unresolved legal and ethical issues, as well as potential solutions, related to the identification, accommodation, response and treatment of mental and behavioral health conditions before, during and after emergencies and disasters.

In addition to extensive scholarship and national efforts to communicate critical issues related to this Project, the Project team has created a set of translational tools, accessible through the links below, which provide succinct information about key topics. These concise tools are intended to aid mental health care providers, emergency responders, health care workers and others in the field to address mental and behavioral health needs during and after emergencies.

- 1) [The Potential Implications of \*CALIF v. City of Los Angeles\* for Mental and Behavioral Health Preparedness](#)
- 2) [Frequently Asked Questions about Legal Preparedness for Health Care Providers and Administrators, Public Health Officials, Emergency Planners and Others Regarding Mental and Behavioral Health](#)
- 3) [Prescribing Authority During Declared Emergencies for Mental and Behavioral Health Care Providers](#)
- 4) [Sample Legal Guidance Letter – Liability for Mental Health Care Providers](#)
- \*NEW 5) [Issue Brief: Substance Abuse Treatment, Emergencies and the Law](#)

**\*NEW** 6) [Frequently Asked Questions on Ethical Issues Related to Mental Health Care in Emergencies](#)

**\*NEW** 7) [Mental Health Legal Preparedness and Crisis Standard of Care](#)

**\*NEW** 8) [Emergency Detention of Persons Deemed a Danger to Themselves or Others During Public Health Emergencies](#)

For more information about the Project's scholarly publications, click [here](#).

For additional information about this project, please visit this [webpage](#) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health or this [webpage](#) at the Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.

#### SUPPORTERS

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