

**NAMI New Hampshire Response to the May 17, 2023 Order issued by
the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire on
the Motion for Summary Judgment filed by 18 New Hampshire hospitals.**

(May 19, 2023)

Concord, NH – On Wednesday, the US District Court of the District of New Hampshire issued a Permanent Injunction requiring the NH Department of Health & Human Services to accept transfer of patients subject to an Involuntary Emergency Admission (IEA) to a Designated Receiving Facility (DRF) within 6 hours of submittal of an IEA petition. The Court requires NH DHHS be in compliance with this injunction within 12 months.

While NAMI NH is hopeful that this action may finally bring an end to the unacceptable practice of boarding people experiencing a psychiatric crisis in hospital emergency departments, we call upon all Granite Staters to work collectively to take this moment of heightened awareness and ensure it becomes one of compassionate action.

For over a decade, NH adults and children have faced this inhumane practice – held against their will, stripped of their personal belongings, typically confined to a windowless room, often with nothing more than a bed on the floor – for days, sometimes weeks, with little to no treatment, and few, if any, visitors. This confinement is traumatizing and, for people with serious mental illness, can often worsen symptoms, and have long-term negative impacts. If these were people experiencing a heart attack or stroke, would we tolerate their languishing for days in an emergency department, alone, without medical intervention?

Any one of us could be that person, boarding in an emergency department, frightened, alone, and seemingly forgotten. Life circumstances and medical issues can change for any of us when we least expect it.

Every Granite Stater has a stake in the implementation of a comprehensive plan that ensures people experiencing mental health crises receive the level of care they need, when they need it, and where they need it. We must work together with policy makers to ensure that New Hampshire's mental health system offers a robust array of community-based services, including appropriate inpatient treatment provided without delay. Each of us and our loved ones deserve no less.

You are not alone. Learn more about NAMI NH's advocacy, education and support services at www.NAMINH.org. **For those experiencing a mental health crisis, help is available 24/7 through NH Rapid Response at 833-710-6477 or www.nh988.com.**