

Greetings to Elected members of the State Legislature, their assistants, appointees, and all other interested parties and advocates.

My name is Gary Michael Grabko. I am presently 2nd Vice President of the quasi governmental institution the South Central Mental Health Board. I am also retired from state service for the Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

I believe am given by my Creator the right to peruse my own happiness in Liberty. Coercive measures such as Out Patient Commitment are abhorrent to these God given rights.

To bring this down to earth regard these facts - **Hard evidence of Recovery by use commitment is lacking.** Also none of the states with OPC force medication. Pertinent are these 1st hand experiences of mine:

1) 7 term Probate Judge Joseph Marino after explaining the legal conservatorship process to our Council had to admit that rarely are individuals with a court ordered conservator ever released.

2) While working as a Mental Health Assistant for the State of Connecticut I witnessed the use of conservatorship status to force certain behaviors on a patient. In order that benefit money be given them these behaviors had to be fulfilled. This is totally illegal and we all knew it. The client apparently did not. Out Patient Commitment will have similar pit falls. May be it looks good on paper. It will however be enforced by authorities who while acting in the interest of public satiety and tranquility can easily abuse this power given to them. In closing know that I was entrusted by the people of the State of Connecticut through the Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction services to be in line of sight of a person deemed a danger to themselves of others.

My name is Gary Michael Grabko and I was diagnosed with schizophrenia in January of 1977.

Peace and Good to all who hear or see my testimony.