

NEWS RELEASE



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NCADD-New Jersey issues guide outlining rights of recovering addicts

TRENTON ... (August 1, 2007) – The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-New Jersey has released a guide outlining the rights of individuals who are in recovery from addiction. The document is designed to help people in recovery gain access to housing, employment, education and health care. It reviews provisions regarding alcohol and drug use in the Americans with Disabilities Act and the New Jersey's Law Against Discrimination. The rights brochure was among the recommendations made by a state panel of legal and civil rights experts that NCADD-NJ convened to help overcome stigma towards addicted and recovering citizens.

The brochure provides an overview of the rights, responsibilities and remedies for people in recovery from addiction and their loved ones. It seeks to help overcome the discrimination and stigma that confronts many residents who have had a problem with alcohol or drugs and in recovery after ending their alcohol or drug use find themselves denied opportunities for employment, housing, education, among other areas. The document can be viewed online at <http://www.ncaddnj.org/pdf/KnowRightsFINAL.pdf>; hardcopies can be ordered by calling 609-477-7015.

In its discussion of the legal protections afforded people in recovery, the document notes that New Jersey's Law Against Discrimination offers the first, and in many cases the best, recourse. In recognizing addiction as a disability, it covers discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and some business transactions. The guide explains that there are conditions and restrictions for the protections for addiction to alcohol and drugs.

NCADD-NJ is a non-profit organization that for the past 25 years has dedicated itself to educating New Jersey's citizens about alcohol and drug use issues, to advocating on state policies concerning individuals addicted to alcohol or other drugs, and to reducing the stigma that frustrates a public health approach to the disease of addiction. More information about the council is available at its website, www.ncaddnj.org.

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