You are entitled to a volunteer companion

In a difficult situation most people find comfort in talking to someone



Who can get a volunteer companion (stödperson in Swedish)?

If you are sectioned or detained in care on legal basis of:

- The Swedish Act on Detained Psychiatric Care (LPT)
- The Swedish Act on Forensic Psychiatric Care (LRV)
- The Swedish Infection Control Act (SML)

Your caregivers will inform you about your right to have a volunteer companion. You are free to choose if you want a volunteer companion or not.

Having a volunteer companion is free of charge.

You are entitled to a volunteer companion for the duration of your detained care and four weeks afterwards, if that is what you and your volunteer companion agree upon.

What can a volunteer companion do for you?

- Be a fellow human being that you can talk to and with an interest in giving you independent support.
- Has the right to visit you on the ward or other place where you are situated. You can also maintain contact by phone or other digital solutions.
- Has the right to attend your court proceedings, if you want to.
- Are bound by patient confidentiality, which means that the volunteer companion cannot tell anyone about matters that you have confided him/her with without your consent.

What should the volunteer companion not do?

- Participate in your care and treatment.
- Take responsibility for your personal finances.
- Act as you legal representative for you.

How do you get a volunteer companion?

Talk to your contact, carer or doctor and they will help you get in touch with the Patient Advisory Board (Patientnämnden), which appoints a volunteer companion.



If you have questions about the volunteer companion, you can talk to the staff at the ward or contact the Patient Advisory Board.



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