

# Mental Health Virtual Tribunal



## An EasyRead Guide



# What is a Mental Health Tribunal?



A Tribunal is a meeting to decide if you can leave hospital.



There will be a panel of 3 people:



1. A Judge.



2. A Tribunal doctor.



3. A specialist.



The panel members are not part of the hospital.



They will talk to you and staff from the hospital.



They will then decide if you can leave hospital.

## Where will my Tribunal take place?



Because of coronavirus the panel members cannot come to the hospital.



Your Tribunal will take place online

## How do I say what I want at my Tribunal?



Your solicitor will telephone you before your Tribunal.



Because of coronavirus your solicitor cannot come to the hospital.



Your solicitor will help you tell the Tribunal what you want.



You don't pay for your solicitor.

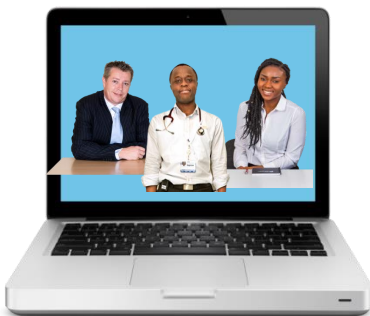


A member of nursing staff from the hospital will support you during your Tribunal.

## What will happen at my Tribunal?



You will sit in front of your computer screen.  
Your nurse will be next to you.



You will see the Tribunal panel on your screen.



You might see other people on the screen  
who you may or may not know.



You can speak first.



You should put your hand up when you want to say something.



Tell your nurse if you need a break or if you want to leave.



## Do I have to go to my Tribunal?

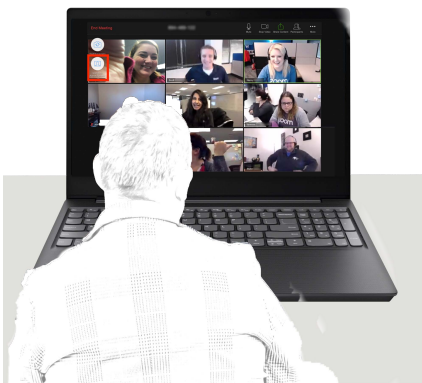


You do not have to go to your Tribunal.

Tell your nurse if you do not want to go.



Your nurse will tell the Judge.



The Tribunal will take place without you.

# What happens after my Tribunal?



The Tribunal panel will decide if you have to stay in hospital or if you can leave hospital.



Your solicitor will tell you what the panel have decided.



EasyRead guide developed by Dr Indermeet Sawhney, Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust with input from Dr Joan Rutherford, Chief Medical Member - Mental Health Tribunal and Dr Ken Courtenay, Chair, Faculty of Psychiatry of Intellectual Disability, Royal College of Psychiatrists