

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
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Attorney General Racine Urges District Residents to Learn More about Mental Health Issues

May Is Mental Health Awareness Month

WASHINGTON, D. C. – As Mental Health Awareness Month comes to a close, Attorney General Karl A. Racine is encouraging District residents to learn more about mental health issues and commit to helping to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental illness.

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) helps protect the rights of District residents affected by mental illness. The attorneys in OAG’s Mental Health Section represent the District’s Department of Behavioral Health in court proceedings to ensure that individuals who need help receive mental health treatment.

Attorney General Racine used the opportunity to call attention to the millions of people nationwide who have a mental health condition, but often suffer in silence.

“Let’s support the District residents who are affected by mental illness by fighting to bring awareness and understanding to this crucial issue,” Attorney General Racine said. **“Eliminating the stigma surrounding mental illness will encourage more District residents to speak openly about their mental-health concerns and to seek treatment in greater numbers. Our office is committed to ensuring that every District resident has an opportunity to enjoy a high quality of life – including those affected by mental illness and their loved ones.”**

Mental Health Awareness Month is a worldwide event that occurs every May. Mental illness affects one in five Americans. The month’s purpose is to help educate the public about the warning signs of mental illness and learn what steps to take to support family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers who may have a mental health condition.

District residents seeking immediate or ongoing mental-health care for themselves or a family member can speak with a certified behavioral health care provider by contacting the Access HelpLine at 1(888)7WE-HELP or 1-888-793-4357.

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