

Illinois Williams and Colbert Consent Decrees Outreach and Transitional Assessment

Attn SMHRF Stakeholders and Cook County NFs – Register for Upcoming Refresher Training | Review Important Process Reminders and Assessment Best Practices

REGISTER: IL OA Refresher Training for NFs and SMHRFs |
Monday, March 9 and Tuesday, March 10 at 1:00 p.m. CT



Join Maximus for a refresher training on the Outreach and Transitional Assessments process and findings for Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Facilities (SMHRFs) and Cook County Nursing Facilities (CCNFs). We will review the consent decrees, the process to complete, and the intent of the programs. There will be some time for Q&A at the end of the session. **Identical content will be presented at both meetings. Use the links below to choose the session that best fits your schedule.**

- [IL OA Refresher Training for NFs and SMHRFs | 1 p.m. CT on Monday, March 9](#)
- [IL OA Refresher Training for NFs and SMHRFs | 1 p.m. CT on Tuesday, March 10](#)



REMINDER: What is the Colbert & Williams Consent Decree?

The Colbert and Williams Consent Decrees are legal agreements in Illinois that say some people with disabilities or mental health needs may be living in Nursing Facilities (NFs) or Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Facilities (SMHRFs) even though their needs could be served in the community. This was found to violate disability rights laws. The decrees require the State to help those individuals learn about their options and, if they can, move into a community with the right services and support.

Required Outreach and Rights of Power of Attorney (POA) and Legal Guardians

Under the Colbert and Williams Consent Decrees, we are required to complete outreach before the Class Member spends 70 days in the facility. We are also required to complete an initial assessment directly with the Class Member if they desire one. There is no requirement to obtain permission from a guardian or POA to complete these steps, although we welcome participation and will do our best to accommodate availability. No treatment or service decisions are made nor discussed during any Outreach or Assessment activity.

What Is the Process?

- A conversation to discuss and inform individuals of their rights, needs, and preferences; it is not a placement decision
- There is no cost and no obligation to move
- Does not change current services

Class Member Rights:

Class Members have the right to receive information without pressure or retaliation.

Participation:

The guardian can participate in the assessment if they wish, and we will do our best to accommodate their availability. Legal Guardian's participation is optional and not required for completion of the assessment.

Next Steps:

Our team will coordinate with the facility to complete the assessment. Once the assessment has been completed, the guardian may choose to reach out to the transition entity and discuss if they would not like transition planning to continue.

CELEBRATE: Program Milestones and Achievements

This 14-month journey (beginning December 2024) has been amazing thus far. With the help of all our Nursing Facility and SMHRF partners, we have helped thousands of Colbert and Williams Class Members understand their rights and choose what setting is best for them.



- Combined Colbert and Williams Outreaches Completed in 2025: **24,716**
- Combined Colbert and Williams Transitional Assessments Completed in 2025: **4,699**

BEST PRACTICES: Assessment Tips & Reminders

- 1 Obtain and confirm Class Members' income ahead of the assessment:** If the business/finance office has limited on-site days, notify them early so verification is completed prior to the assessment.
- 2 Have updated medical records ready:** Include any new information not in the original submission that may be relevant to the Class Members medical or psychiatric status.
- 3 Read all emails from Maximus and AssessmentPro:** Important updates and instructions are often included.
- 4 Attend all training sessions:** Participate in webinars or in-person sessions provided by Maximus.
- 5 Contact the Maximus Help Desk when in doubt:** They can clarify questions and resolve issues.
- 6 When Maximus Assessors are visiting, be sure to have a private space available for them to speak with Class Members.**

Maximus Assessors may reach out ahead of time to confirm that Class Members are admitted to facilities. This is a best practice tactic that allows them to properly plan their visit. If possible, please inform Class Members of upcoming Maximus visits. It is helpful if all scheduled Class Members remain at the facility to prevent having to reschedule the appointment.

7 Documentation Needed to Complete Assessments:**Required documents for Nursing Facilities (NFs)**

- Progress notes from a Medical Doctor (MD) within the past 30 days
- Medication Administration Record (MAR)
- MDS Sections C, D, E, and GG

Required documents for SMHRFs

- History and Physical (H&P)
- MAR

- Progress notes within the past 30 days

PROCESS: PathTracker Compliance



Keep in mind that PASRR and SMHRF assessments must be completed prior to admission. Individuals should **not** be admitted to your facility without these requirements being met. This requirement applies regardless of the circumstances of admission. The admitting facility is responsible for ensuring that an individual has been appropriately screened and/or assessed, as applicable, **before** admission.

Please keep your PathTracker current. AssessmentPro functions are automated based on PathTracker data. This includes management of duplicate profiles. It is suggested that Admissions departments and Social Work departments collaborate to ensure that each Class Member has only one AssessmentPro IID and Profile.



TOOLKIT: Resource Information & Links

- [Maximus O&A General Information](#)
- [Maximus O&A FAQs](#)
- [Maximus O&A Helpful Links](#)

SUPPORT: Contact the Maximus - Illinois Help Desk



The Maximus – Illinois Help Desk team is available to answer any process or system-related questions from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. CST, Sunday – Saturday.

- Outreach and Transitional Assessment assistance: ILOA@maximus.com
- General Help Desk Assistance: ILHelpDesk@maximus.com
- Phone: **833.727.7745**
- Outreach and Transitional Assessment Tools and Resources page: <https://maximusclinicalservices.com/svcs/il/oa/resources>



HFS

Illinois Department of
Healthcare and Family Services
