

Seriously Emotionally Disturbed (SED) Definitions
To accompany Mental Health Services Act Exhibit A

California Welfare & Institutions Code Section 5600.3.

To the extent resources are available, the primary goal of use of funds deposited in the mental health account of the local health and welfare trust fund should be to serve the target populations identified in the following categories, which shall not be construed as establishing an order of priority:

(a) (1) Seriously emotionally disturbed children or adolescents.

(2) For the purposes of this part, "seriously emotionally disturbed children or adolescents" means minors under the age of 18 years who have a mental disorder as identified in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, other than a primary substance use disorder or developmental disorder, which results in behavior inappropriate to the child's age according to expected developmental norms. Members of this target population shall meet one or more of the following criteria:

(A) As a result of the mental disorder the child has substantial impairment in at least two of the following areas:

- * self-care,
- * school functioning,
- * family relationships,
- * or ability to function in the community;

and either of the following occur:

- (i) The child is at risk of removal from home or has already been removed from the home.
- (ii) The mental disorder and impairments have been present for more than six months or are likely to continue for more than one year without treatment.

(B) The child displays one of the following: psychotic features, risk of suicide or risk of violence due to a mental disorder.

(C) The child meets special education eligibility requirements under Chapter 26.5 (commencing with Section 7570) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code.

Note from CMHS: **AB2726 CLIENTS MAY NOT BE SEEN UNDER THE MHSA.**