# STATE OF NEW YORK

4741--B

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

# IN SENATE

March 22, 2019

Introduced by Sens. HARCKHAM, ORTT, BIAGGI, CARLUCCI, KAPLAN, KENNEDY, KRUEGER, MARTINEZ, RAMOS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- recommitted to the Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to requiring certified treatment programs to notify patients of their right to name an emergency contact

**The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:**

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as "Stephen's law".

§ 2. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section 32.17-a to read as follows:

**§ 32.17-a Notification of emergency contact.**

**Every certified treatment program shall notify every patient of their right to identify individuals who should be contacted in case of emergency, as such term is defined by the commissioner.**

§ 3. The office of addiction services and supports shall develop guidelines to encourage certified treatment programs to work with patients to identify individuals who can assist in their treatment and recovery, and to identify those individuals who can serve as an emergency contact person for such patient. Such guidelines shall provide instruction to certified treatment programs regarding recommended protocols for communicating with emergency contacts.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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§ 4. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the development of guidelines necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such date.