

Definitions of Illnesses and Disabilities

Illness and Statute Reference	Definition
<i>Developmentally Disabled</i> 51.01(5)(a), Wis. Stats.	“A disability attributable to brain injury, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, Prader-Willi Syndrome, mental retardation, or another neurological condition closely related to mental retardation or requiring treatment similar to that required for mental retardation, which has continued or can be expected to continue indefinitely and constitutes a substantial handicap to the afflicted individual. ‘Developmental disability’ does not include senility which is primarily caused by the process of aging or the infirmities of aging.”
<i>Alcoholism</i> 51.01(1m), Wis. Stats.	“A disease which is characterized by the dependency of a person on the drug alcohol, to the extent that the person’s health is substantially impaired or endangered or his or her social or economic functioning is substantially disrupted.”
<i>Drug Dependent</i> 51.01(8), Wis.Stats.	“A person who uses one or more drugs to the extent that the person’s health is substantially impaired or his or her social or economic functioning is substantially disrupted.”
<i>Chronic Mental Illness</i> 51.01(3g), Wis. Stats.	“A mental illness which is severe in degree and persistent in duration, which causes a substantially diminished level of functioning in the primary aspects of daily living and an inability to cope with the ordinary demands of life, which may lead to an inability to maintain stable adjustment and independent functioning without long-term treatment and support which may be of lifelong duration. ‘Chronic mental illness’ includes schizophrenia as well as a wide spectrum of psychotic and other severely disabling psychiatric diagnostic categories, but does not include infirmities of aging or a primary diagnosis of mental retardation or of alcohol or drug dependence.”
<i>Alzheimer’s Disease</i> 46.87(1)(a), Wis. Stats.	“A degenerative disease of the central nervous system characterized especially by premature senile mental deterioration, and also includes any other irreversible deterioration of intellectual faculties without concomitant emotional disturbance resulting from organic brain disorder.”
<i>Physically or Sensory Disabled</i> 101.03(122m), Wis. Stats.	“A condition which affects a person’s physical or sensory functioning by limiting his or her mobility or ability to see or hear, is the result of injury, disease or congenital deficiency, and significantly interferes with or limits one or more major life activities and the performance of major personal or social roles.”
<i>Severely Emotionally Disturbed</i> 49.45(25)(a), Wis. Stats.	“An individual under 21 years of age who has emotional or behavioral problems that are severe in degree; are expected to persist for at least one year; substantially interfere with the individual’s functioning in his or her family, school, or community and with his or her ability to cope with ordinary demands of life; and cause the individual to need services from 2 or more agencies or organization that provide social services or services or treatment for mental health, juvenile justice, child welfare, special education, or health.”

Severely Emotionally Disturbed “Case management services under this subsection may not be provided to a person under the category of severely emotionally disturbed child unless any of the following is true:
(continued)

49.45(25)(a), Wis. Stats.

1. A team of mental health experts appointed by the case management provider determine that the person is a severely emotionally disturbed child. The team shall consist of at least three members. The case management provider shall appoint at least one member of the team who is a licensed psychologist or a physician specializing in psychiatry. The case management provider shall appoint at least two members of the team who are members of the professions of school psychologist, school social worker, registered nurse, social worker, child care worker, occupational therapist, or teacher of emotionally disturbed children. The case management provider shall appoint as a member of the team at least one person who personally participated in a psychological evaluation of the child.

2. A service coordination agency has determined under Section 46.56 (8) (d) that the person is a child with emotional and behavioral disabilities that meet the requirements under 46.56 (1) (c) 1. to 4.”