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PsychRights Joins MindFreedom Shield Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 1, 2004

The Law Project for Psychiatric Rights (PsychRights) announced today it is enthusiastically joining the MindFreedom Shield Program launched by MindFreedom/Support Coalition International. The creative MindFreedom Shield Program combines the Living Will concept of directing one's health care with a "Solidarity Network" of activists standing by to come to the aid of those whose Advance Directives concerning mental health treatments are ignored.

Jim Gottstein, COO of PsychRights said, "We are confident that some illegal psychiatric abuses will be prevented. Right now, people's rights are being ignored wholesale in Kangaroo Court types of legal proceedings." Don Roberts, president of PsychRights explained, "We expect that by shining a light on these practices and bringing a human face to these abuses people will begin to understand the horror of the present system."

The MindFreedom Shield program allows anyone who wants to be protected from forced psychiatric procedures to register their MindFreedom Shield with MindFreedom/Support Coalition International. Anyone else who wants to support the program can also register a MindFreedom Shield. Everyone who registers a MindFreedom Shield becomes part of the Solidarity Network in support of network members facing forced psychiatric procedures. When an Alert goes out everyone in the Solidarity Network is expected to take some concrete action in support of the person. This might be as simple as writing a letter or calling the facility's administrator or it might involve such actions as marches on the facility, sit-ins, or other non-violent forms of protest. People are also being urged to implement advance directive documents that are legally effective in their state as part of this program. More information can be obtained from the MindFreedom Shield website at <http://www.mindfreedom.intenex.net/shield>.

"The MindFreedom Shield Program fits PsychRights' mission of fighting unwarranted court ordered drugging perfectly," said Mr. Gottstein. "The idea is brilliant, through this mechanism oppressed people saddled with psychiatric labels can unite and offer effective resistance to psychiatric abuses."

"It has proven extremely hard for people to obtain good legal representation, which necessitates this kind of self-help action," Don Roberts said, "PsychRights will continue attempting to arrange high-quality legal support for people resisting forced psychiatric procedures, but that has proven very difficult. Publicity may help. Signing Advance Directives is another important self-help step people can take to protect themselves."

The Law Project for Psychiatric Rights is a public interest law firm devoted to the defense of people facing the horrors of unwarranted forced psychiatric drugging and other forced psychiatric procedures. PsychRights is further dedicated to exposing the truth about these procedures and the courts being misled into ordering people subjected to these brain and body damaging procedures against their will. Extensive information about this is available on the PsychRights web site: <http://psychrights.org/>.