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# Mental Health Awareness Month: Carolyn Reinach Wolf Featured in Roslyn Living

## FEATURED ATTORNEY

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**Carolyn Reinach Wolf**

Executive Partner, Emeritus

In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month, Roslyn Living is shining a light on Executive Partner [Carolyn Wolf](#), Director of Abrams Fensterman's nationally recognized [Mental Health Law Practice](#).

Carolyn is one of the leading legal voices in the country for families navigating complex psychiatric crises. From guardianship to involuntary treatment to mental health warrants, our firm provides compassionate, legal solutions to those who need it most.



# THE WHO WHAT & WHY OF MENTAL HEALTH LAW

BY CAROLYN REINACH WOLF (ABRAMS | FENSTERMAN)



## Q1: When did Mental Health Law come into practice?

While mental health issues have existed throughout history, the legal field specifically dedicated to mental health law began taking shape in the mid-20th century, as society evolved in its understanding of mental illness and the rights of individuals living with psychiatric conditions.

Landmark legal reforms, such as deinstitutionalization in the 1960s and the enactment of New York's Mental Hygiene Law, helped carve out what we now recognize as Mental Health Law.

At **Abrams Fensterman**, we've built the most comprehensive mental health law practice in New York—and I'm proud to lead a team that is truly one-of-a-kind in the country. Our practice not only handles matters like involuntary psychiatric treatment, Kendra's Law, and mental health warrants, but we also provide wraparound services for families in crisis. This holistic model didn't exist when I started, and it's something I'm proud to have pioneered.

## Q2: What are the kinds of cases/trials that come about in this particular area?

Mental health law cases are incredibly diverse—and often urgent. Our work includes representing families during psychiatric crises, advocating for patients' rights, and working with hospital systems and clinicians navigating complex legal requirements. Some of the most common cases involve:



### RETENTION AND TREATMENT OVER OBJECTION

(when someone refuses psychiatric care but



## Q3: Who are the people who would benefit from counseling?

A potential spouse, sibling, or one but doesn't show signs: erratic behavior or sudden changes. Has stopped working or school. Advantages:

We also work with health professionals of treatment. Of our practice about a lot of system that. And as a lawyer, understanding community.

## Q4: Con

Read Carolyn's Q&A from Roslyn Living, titled "The Who, What, Where, How of Mental Health Law"