

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
RESOLUTION #2022-39**

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP AS A
STIGMA FREE COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, it is widely recognized that mental health issues are at the core of the numerous violent events around the nation, where so many have been randomly killed, wounded, or traumatized and that one of the key factors in preventing violent actions from occurring in the first place is to provide greater access to mental health services that includes breaching the barrier of the stigma associated with mental illness, and

WHEREAS, while a very small percentage of those in need of mental health care will ever turn violent, the stigma associated with the disease of mental illness is identified as the primary reason individuals fail to seek the help they need to recover from the disease, and

WHEREAS, Stigma-Free Communities aim to inspire public interest and open dialogues about stigma, raise awareness of the disease of mental illness, and create a culture wherein residents who have the disease of mental illness feel supported by their community and neighbors, and feel free to seek treatment for the disease without fear of feelings of shame or disgrace, being stigmatized, and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of Franklin Township, wishes to lead our community in recognizing the need to eliminate the stigmatization of mental illness by designating Franklin Township, as a Stigma Free community, promoting awareness that there can be no "health" without mental health, breaking down barriers, and encouraging residents of all ages to be mindful of their mental health and to ask for help when needed, so recovery can begin, hope is inspired, and tragedies are avoided,

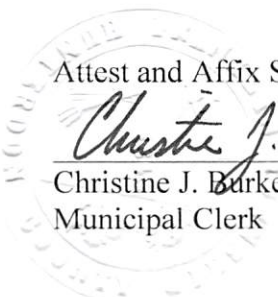
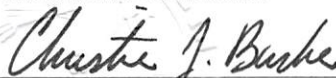
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee hereby designates Franklin Township, as a Stigma-Free Community, raising awareness of the resources available and encouraging those who may have need for mental health services to engage in care, as soon as the need is identified, and for all residents to demonstrate compassion, understanding, and support through the elimination of the stigma towards those living with mental illness,

Be It Further Resolved that Franklin Township joins with Hunterdon County and many of the communities in the county in becoming Stigma Free By '23.

ADOPTED: 07/14/2022


Philip Koury, Mayor
Township Committee

Attest and Affix Seal:



Christine J. Burke, RMC
Municipal Clerk

I, Christine J. Burke, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, do hereby certify this to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee at a meeting held on July 14, 2022.


Christine Burke, RMC
Municipal Clerk





Mental Illness and Stigma

What is a mental illness?

Mental illnesses refer to disorders generally characterized by dysregulation of mood, thought, and/or behavior. Mental illness encompasses a variety of disorders ranging from depression and anxiety to substance and alcohol use disorder and bipolar disorder. Mental illnesses can affect persons of any age, race, religion or income.

What is stigma?

Stigma is a mark of disgrace which results from the judgment by others. When an individual is labelled by their illness they experience judgment and prejudice. Stigma brings experiences and feelings of shame, embarrassment, distress, hopelessness and reluctance to seek or accept help. As a result, stigma is the primary reason individuals do not seek help when they experience symptoms of mental illness.