

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE OHIO NETWORK FOR THE CHEMICALLY INJURED**

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
TONI TEMPLE

The Ohio Network for the Chemically Injured began as an informal self-education group to address the issues of Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) in the Ohio area. Recently, The Ohio Network for the Chemically Injured (ONFCI) became affiliated with the newly-formed National Coalition for the Chemically Injured, a non-profit organization that provides national leadership and assistance to organizations supporting the chemically injured.

MCS, a little known but large reaching illness (15% of the population is sensitive to chemicals according to an estimate published by the National Academy of Science) affects people of all ages and backgrounds. Often the symptoms evolve over time, with its victims eliminating cleaning products, personal care items, or household items (rugs or couches) to find temporary relief. The severity of the illness usually increases following exposure to chemicals at home or in the work place. Some children become affected after a pet has been dipped or sprayed for fleas; homeowners or office workers, after remodeling; families, after applying weed killer or spraying insecticide in the home. There are numerous ways to achieve a total load of chemicals.

Each individual that suffers from MCS manifests different symptoms, which accounts for the difficulty in diagnosing this disability and receiving recognition from the medical community. There are, however, some similar reactions: nausea, seizure, blurred vision, memory loss, headache, and fatigue. It's easy to see that these symptoms mimic other diseases and disorders.

What's unique to MCS is that when the affected individual undergoes medical testing: The majority of test results become back normal or negative. In other words, according to the medical community these individuals are healthy. And yet, they may not be able to concentrate, stand, see straight, or stop trembling.

This disease seriously devastates one's ability to complete the simplest and most basic tasks. Some affected children cannot attend school. They must be tutored privately, and thereby miss out on classroom interaction and the social aspects of school; affected adults, often lose their jobs, homes, and livelihood.

Ohio, like each of the other forty-nine states, is legally bound to provide education, support, and a safe environment for the chemically disabled under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Ohio Network for the Chemically Injured dedicates itself to educating MCS sufferers on how to alleviate the level of disability by providing information

such as: where to purchase products that do not further aggravate the condition or which governmental agencies can help. Monthly meetings also provide an opportunity for employers and MCS sufferers to learn about how to make the work or learning environment safe. Speakers address various educational issues.

The goal of this organization is to help MCS sufferers learn how to recognize their symptoms and prevent MCS from developing into a total disability. The organization wants to help the MCS individual and the community take control of this disease before it takes control of them.

The next ONFCI meeting will be Sunday, November 5, 1995, at 1:30 PM at the Royal Redeemer Lutheran Church 11680 Royalton Road in North Royalton. A worker's compensation lawyer will speak and answer questions relating to MCS and worker's comp.

For further information contact Toni Temple

Since perfume adversely affects all MCS suffers, please be sure to print the following notice with the announcement: **Please, do not wear perfume, use scented soaps or tobacco products before attending the meeting. Thank you.**

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