

NORTHERN NEVADA ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
POLICY AND PROCEDURE DIRECTIVE

SUBJECT: STATUS CONVERSION: VOLUNTARY TO INVOLUNTARY

NUMBER: NN-RI-17

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ORIGINAL DATE: 12/14/88

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APPROVAL: Rosalyn Reynolds {s} , Agency Director

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I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for converting consumer status from voluntary to involuntary admission.

II. POLICY

It shall be the policy of Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (NNAMHS) that consumers be treated within the least restrictive status appropriate to their condition.

III. REFERENCES

1. Legal 2000 entitled, "Application for Emergency Admission of an Allegedly Mentally Ill Person to a Mental Facility."
2. Nevada Revised Statute 433A.160. Procedure for Admission.
3. Nevada Revised Statute 433A.115. "Person with Mental Illness" defined.

4. Nevada Revised Statute 433A.120 through 433A.330 inclusive. (General Provisions, Emergency Admission, Involuntary Court-Ordered Admission)
5. NNAMHS Policy and Procedure NN-PC-AD-02 entitled, "Admission Process."

#### IV. PROCEDURES

1. Voluntary consumers have a legal right to terminate treatment and leave the treatment facility upon written notice. However, there are instances when a consumer's voluntary status must be changed to involuntary status because the clinical condition calls for the protection of the consumer or others. Specifically, a voluntary consumer who is clinically assessed by a licensed staff physician, registered nurse, social worker, or psychologist to be dangerous to self or others shall not be permitted to leave an inpatient facility against professional advice. In these cases, an application for emergency admission shall be initiated and followed by a petition for court-ordered involuntary commitment, as may be clinically indicated.
2. Cases will be processed according to standard legal procedures for emergency applications (refer to NNAMHS Policy and Procedure NN-PC-AD-02 entitled, "Admission Process").
3. REQUEST FOR DISCHARGE BY VOLUNTARY PATIENT
  - a. A voluntary consumer requesting discharge in writing to his/her attending physician ordinarily shall be released within the working day if after assessment the consumer is deemed not a danger to self or others. (Refer to NNAMHS Policy NN-PC-AD-02.)
4. LEGAL 2000 INITIATED BY NNAMHS
  - a. If, after assessment, a voluntary consumer is determined to be dangerous to self or others, he/she shall not be released.
  - b. The consumer shall be treated medically and processed administratively in the same fashion and degree as any other emergency admission under existing Nevada statutes.

- c. An appropriate order by the physician for initiation of a Legal 2000 shall be entered in the consumer's medical record.
- d. The consumer will be notified of the event.
- e. The physician will write a progress note stating the reason for filing a Legal 2000.
- f. The Legal 2000, "Application for Emergency Admission", shall be initiated immediately and completed in its entirety by the appropriate registered nurse, social worker, psychologist, or physician.
- g. Certification of the hold by a licensed psychologist and medical clearance must be completed to process the Legal 2000.
- h. The Legal 2000 will be valid for 48 hours post completion of the medical clearance. Petitions to continue the Legal 2000 are to be submitted to the court within 48 hours.
- i. After completion of the Legal 2000, the social worker or physician will contact the HIS Department immediately to facilitate the completion of legal paperwork.