



Placement of System-Involved Youth Discharged from a Psychiatric Hold

Step-by-Step Guide for Psychiatric Facility, Child Welfare Agency/Probation, and Child's Attorney

Youth involuntarily hospitalized pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 5150/5585.50, 5250, 5260, or 5270.15

Upon admission, psychiatric hospital staff contacts child welfare agency/probation regarding date of admission and type of hold

Child welfare agency/probation case carrying social worker:

Maintains contact with facility to determine recommended course of action and anticipated discharge date

A care conference should happen as early as possible (in-person, virtual, telephonic) for all youth who will be transitioning from the hospital to another setting/placement. The care team may include:

- Acute care hospital representatives
- County social workers and/or probation officer
- Family/friends as appropriate — determined by county social worker and/or probation officer, and/or attorney
- Attorney
- A clinician from the current facility
- Therapeutic team members (e.g., ongoing therapist, flexible integrated therapy)
- Representative from an identified authorized placement (check with county social worker)

Conference goals should include:

- Identifying the least restrictive placement possible, as permitted by court order
- Identifying anticipated time frames
- Planning for safety and security
- Planning for ongoing medical needs after care, including medications
- Planning for ongoing mental health care, including psychiatric medications and authorizations
- Assessing the appropriateness and desirability of voluntary hospitalization with follow-up with attorney

Placement per current court order upon discharge if/when the application/voluntary hold is discontinued:

- Home with parents or legal guardian
- Home of relative or family friend
- Foster care home
- Short-term residential therapeutic program

Note: This list could apply to non-minor dependents

72-Hour Involuntary Hold

Child Welfare Agency/ Probation Case Carrying Social Worker

Contact facility to determine:

- Diagnosis
- Current symptoms
- Legal basis for hold
- Recommended medications
- Day/time involuntary hold will expire
- If further involuntary mental health treatment is recommended

14-Day Involuntary Hold

Child Welfare Agency/ Probation Case Carrying Social Worker

Maintain contact with facility to determine:

- Legal basis for continued hospitalization (gravely disabled, danger to self/others)
- Recommended course of treatment
- Anticipated discharge date

Subsequent 14-Day Involuntary Hold for Suicidal Person

NOTE: Child must be released after subsequent 14-day hold expires unless under Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act conservatorship.

30-Day Hospitalization of Gravely Disabled Child

NOTE: Child must be released after the 30-day hold expires unless a petition for appointment of LPS Act conservatorship is established (accepted and filed with probate court).