

Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital Procedure

Law Enforcement Contact with Patients

Revised: X

Date: 04/07/14

I. Investigations

- A. The Vermont Psychiatric Care Center (VPCH) Chief Executive Officer or designee shall be notified of all law enforcement officer requests for contact with patients at VPCH.
- B. Law enforcement officers must advise the patient of his/her right to legal representation.
- C. Hospital staff shall assist the patient in exercising his/her right to legal representation by notifying Legal Aid or the Public Defender's Office or the patient's attorney, if s/he has one, to assure that counsel is apprised of the law enforcement officer's meeting with the patient.

II. Serving Legal Documents

- A. Officers should be requested to serve legal documents during regular daytime hours, when the Treatment Team is on duty.
- B. A member of the patient's Treatment Team shall accompany a law enforcement officer when he performs his duty to deliver a legal document to a patient.
- C. In emergencies requiring the serving of legal papers during the absence of all Treatment Team members, the doctor-on-call shall accompany the law enforcement officer.

Approved by	Signature	Date
Frank Reed, Commissioner of DMH		11/29/16