

COURT SCREENING FORM

Date: _____ Court/Site: _____

Evaluation requested by: Prosecutor _____ Defense Atty _____ Court _____ Other _____

Defendant's Name: _____ DOB _____

Address: _____

Docket No(s): _____

Charge(s): _____

If Known, Relevant Diagnoses (psychiatric, neurocognitive, intellectual, substance use, etc.): _____

Evidence of Substance Use: _____

Evidence of Mental Illness: _____

Tentative Diagnostic Impression: _____

Evidence of Danger to Self or Others: _____

QMHP's Name: _____ (DA): _____

QMHP's Recommendation: _____ Inpatient evaluation **OR** _____ Outpatient evaluation

QMHP Notifies VPCH Admissions of recommendation by [Tel: \(802\) 828-2799](tel:8028282799)

VPCH Admissions Notifies DMH Legal Division of screener's recommendation by e-mail (see reverse)

Court Notifies DMH Legal Division of court's determination by e-mail (see reverse)

Court's Determination: _____

Agency Case Manager notified: _____

COURT SCREENING PROCESS

1. The court will call the Designated Agency to request a court screening from a QMHP.
2. The court will call as early in the day as possible to request a court screening. Sometimes court screenings will be requested later in the day because that is when the defendant is present before the court (i.e. due to emergency circumstances, the court does not necessarily have control over when a person is brought to court).
3. If the court screening cannot be completed within two hours, the court may make a determination without consideration of the screener's recommendation.
4. The QMHP will have a packet of information from the court available to them when they arrive, including affidavits.
5. The QMHP will meet with the individual.
6. The QMHP will provide their recommendation to the court as to whether the person meets Emergency Exam criteria and should thus have their competency evaluation inpatient. This recommendation is made formally on the Court Screening Form, and the QMHP may also be asked to share their recommendation verbally. If the QMHP determines that the person does not meet the threshold for inpatient psychiatric treatment, and the court orders an evaluation, it will occur in the community/in a correctional facility based on their disposition from court.
7. The screener will notify VPCH Admissions of their recommendation by phone (802-828-2799) and then fax the Court Screening Form to VPCH Admissions (802-828-2749).
8. **The court will notify DMH Legal at the outset of their request for a court screening as well as notify DMH Legal as to the disposition after the court hearing. (DMH Legal will also be notified by VPCH). DMH Legal contacts: Cheryl.Goodwin-Abare@vermont.gov, Steve.Kroll@vermont.gov, Carla.Felice@vermont.gov**

DEFINITIONS

- Evidence of Mental Illness: Any personal observations by the QMHP that suggest that the individual is experiencing symptoms consistent with major mental illness. This can also include self-report of the individual about their thoughts, mood, and subjective experience and relevant information to which the QMHP has access.
- Emergency Exam Criteria: That the individual has been determined by the QMHP to be a "person in need of treatment," per Vermont State Statute: a "person who has a mental illness and, as a result of that mental illness, his or her capacity to exercise self-control, judgement, or discretion in the conduct of his or her affairs and social relations is so lessened that he or she poses a danger of harm to himself, to herself, or to others."
- Tentative Diagnostic Impression: This is an opportunity for the QMHP to identify their clinical impressions of what may be driving the person's presentation, particularly if an established diagnosis (whether medical, psychiatric, neurocognitive, intellectual, neurodevelopmental, substance use, etc.) is not known.
- Evidence of Substance Use: This would include any information observed by the QMHP and/or reported to the QMHP (including by the individual) regarding substance use prior to the legal charges, including current intoxication.