

<b>Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital Policy and Procedure</b>		
<b>Court Orders for Hospitalization</b>		
Effective: July 2014	Revised: September 2024	Due for Review: September 2026

**POLICY**

It is the policy of the Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital (VPCH) that, pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 7205(a), only individuals on involuntary status shall be admitted to VPCH. Individuals who are court ordered for hospitalization must be accepted for admission by a VPCH Psychiatrist.

**PROCEDURE**

When the Department of Mental Health (DMH) Legal Department receives a court order which requires any action by the hospital, a copy will be forwarded to:

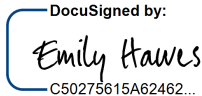
- The hospitalized person’s treatment team
- The VPCH Admissions Office (if it relates to discharge)

Legal staff monitor those court orders that relate to discharges by a certain date and notify the VPCH Admissions Office of such dates. If there is a change in a hospitalized person’s status, a representative of the treatment team must notify the assigned paralegal.

The DMH Legal Department will provide notice to the appropriate State’s Attorney’s Office when indicated in the hospitalization order prior to discharge for hospitalized persons.

Persons hospitalized with a mittimus to a correctional facility must be returned to the Department of Corrections at discharge unless the court determines otherwise.

The DMH Legal Department will notify VPCH providers if a court hearing is required prior to discharge. Efforts shall be made to develop a discharge plan should the individual be discharged from their court hearing.

<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
Emily Hawes, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Mental Health	 <p>DocuSigned by: <i>Emily Hawes</i> C50275615A62462...</p>	9/25/2024