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MEMORANDUM

TO: Department of Mental Health (Adult and Children's Units), Designated Agencies (All Divisions), Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital's (VPCH) Admissions Office

FROM: Paul Dupre, Commissioner 

DATE: January 20, 2015

SUBJECT: Involuntary Transport of Children under the Age of 10

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This memo is intended to address involuntary transport of children under the age of ten (10) and clarify questions from the field. It continues the expectation established by the Department of Mental Health that all designated agency involuntary transports of children aged ten (10) and younger, are to be done whenever possible, by parents, guardians, ambulance, mental health transport staff in safe vehicles or specially designated sheriff alternative vans in plain clothes.

It remains true that when a child under the age of ten (10), in the care and custody of the Commissioner of Mental Health (Involuntary Status), is transported by sheriffs and it is *proposed* that this child will be transported in metal handcuffs, the Commissioner of Mental Health or his/her designee is to be reached via Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital's (VPCH) Admissions, 24-hours a day at 802-828-2799. The usual and customary paperwork (Transport Checklist) is to be completed and faxed to DMH Quality Management at 802-828-3823, where any further review will occur.

In summary:

- Children on involuntary status CAN be transported by any safe alternative (see above).
- If metal handcuffs are proposed to be used on a child < 10 years of age, you must call the DMH Commissioner or his/her designee via 828-2799, 24/7.

Thank you for your continued support in this effort. It is unique to Vermont and something of which we can be proud.