

YOUTH SERVICES POLICY

Title: Placement in Psychiatric Facilities	Type: D. Community Based Services Sub Type: 9. Placement, Transfer, Termination and Removal Process Number: D.9.10
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References: La. Children's Code Art. 809 (B)	
STATUS: Approved	
Approved By: <i>William A. Sommers, Deputy Secretary</i>	Date of Approval: 05/11/2022

I. AUTHORITY:

Deputy Secretary of Youth Services (YS) as contained in La. R.S. 36:405. Deviation from this policy must be approved by the Deputy Secretary.

II. PURPOSE:

To establish procedures for psychiatric hospitalization of youth in YS custody.

III. APPLICABILITY:

Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Undersecretary, Chief of Operations, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Probation and Parole Program Director, Regional Directors, Regional Managers, Central Office (CO) Community Based Services (CBS) Program Manager, and all CBS employees.

IV. DEFINITIONS:

Agency - For purposes of this policy, Agency refers to Youth Services and the Office of Juvenile Justice.

Central Office Program Manager - Central Office (CO) Program Manager is responsible for administering comprehensive statewide programs.

Emergency Certificate (EC) – A certificate issued by a physician, family psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, or psychologist after an actual examination of a youth alleged to be mentally ill or suffering from substance use disorder, who has been determined to be in need of immediate medical treatment because the youth is a danger to self or others, or is gravely disabled.

Juvenile Electronic Tracking System (JETS) - The centralized database utilized to track all youth under OJJ supervision or custody and to record all youth case record activity.

Mental Health Advocacy Services (MHAS) – An executive agency under the Office of the Governor of the State of Louisiana that provides legal representation to children in competency, commitment, and other mental health matters.

Probation and Parole Officer/Juvenile (PPO/J) - Includes CBS probation officers (Probation and Parole Officer 1, 2 and 3/Juvenile).

Supervising PPO/J - The probation officer assigned to make contacts with the youth and facility representative while in a non-secure facility.

V. POLICY:

It is the Deputy Secretary's policy that placement of a youth in a psychiatric facility shall be based on need established through either a psychiatric evaluation or the issuance of an Emergency Certificate (EC).

VI. PROCEDURES:

A. Once an EC has been issued, psychiatric hospitalization does not require Central Office approval. After the need for psychiatric hospitalization is established, a referral shall be made by the attending Emergency Room (ER) physician.

B. Psychiatric hospital placement is routinely secured by the attending ER physician. However, there may be certain cases where the psychiatric hospital will not accept Medicaid as a form of payment for services. The supervising PPO/J shall contact alternative psychiatric hospitals until placement has been secured in a psychiatric hospital that accepts Medicaid.

A narrative entry shall be made in JETS by the PPO/J, detailing the date and time of the alternative placement.

C. The supervising PPO/J shall accomplish the following by close of business on the work day following the youth's admission into a psychiatric hospital:

1. Notify the placing region;
2. Notify the CO CBS Program Manager;
3. Update the transfer screen in JETS; and

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4. Complete the “Letter of Expectations” in JETS and forward it to the hospital administrator and the CO CBS Program Manager.
- D. The La. Children's Code Art. 809(B) requires notification of the youth's psychiatric hospitalization to the “Mental Health Advocacy Service” (MHAS) serving the parish in which the youth was committed to the Agency’s custody. Notification prior to hospitalization is preferred.
- E. Within five (5) working days, the placing PPO/J shall complete the “Mental Health Hospitalization Form” in JETS and forward it to MHAS (refer to <http://mhas.louisiana.gov> Contact for a list of the MHAS representatives) along with a copy of the recommendation for hospitalization.
- F. If the youth is already in a private psychiatric hospital at the time he enters YS custody, the placing PPO/J shall notify the CO CBS Program Manager where the youth is hospitalized and whether the hospital accepts Medicaid as a form of payment. If the hospital accepts Medicaid, no further action is needed. A narrative entry shall be made in the youth’s case record in JETS, detailing the date and time of the notification.

If the youth is already a patient in a psychiatric facility that does not accept Medicaid, the supervising PPO/J and his/her supervisor shall seek an alternate placement as soon as possible. Prior to any alternate placement, the supervising PPO/J and the Supervisor shall obtain the approval of the attending physician of the facility the youth is currently residing in.

- G. In the event the youth is residing at a group home that contracts with the Agency directly, the supervising PPO/J and the supervisor shall provide all relevant information to the hospital where the youth is placed.
- H. The PPO/J shall discharge the youth from the residential provider upon admission to the hospital.
- I. Regional Managers are authorized to develop additional procedures necessary to implement this policy.

Previous Regulation/Policy Number: D.9.10

Previous Effective Date: 05/07/2020

Attachments/References: