

PROCEDURES FOR COURT-ORDERED MENTAL HEALTH COMMITMENTS

Hays County Courts at Law No. 1 and No. 2
Hays County Justice Center, Room #177
110 E. Martin Luther King Drive
San Marcos, Texas 78666
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Procedures for court-ordered mental health commitments are governed by state law and provisions of the Texas Health and Safety Code. Court-ordered commitments are available when a proposed patient is either unwilling or unable to seek mental health services voluntarily.

The process is begun by an interested person, usually a family member, coming to our office to fill out an Application for Court-Ordered Temporary Mental Health Services. The application is sworn before a notary public, which is available through our office.

Following the application, if the proposed patient is not presently in a medical facility, the Court will sign an Order which authorizes law enforcement to pick up the proposed patient wherever he/she is located in Hays County, and transport the proposed patient to Central Texas Medical Center for evaluation. Transportation may also be provided by family members/friends. At CTMC, the proposed patient will be evaluated by a doctor to see if he/she meets the criteria under state law for a mental health commitment. If the proposed patient DOES NOT meet criteria, he/she must be returned to the location where law enforcement picked them up. If the proposed patient DOES meet criteria, the doctor will sign a physicians' certificate which the Court must have in order to sign any further orders of commitment. A representative from either CTMC or Scheib Mental Health Center will bring the physicians' certificate to our office where the Court will sign commitment Orders which include appointment of an attorney for the patient and notice of future hearings.

If the patient has insurance, CTMC will contact an appropriate mental health facility in our area to see if a bed is available. If the patient does not have insurance, Scheib Mental Health Center will make arrangements at a state hospital, usually Austin State Hospital. Transportation to the facility will be provided by law enforcement or by family members.

If the patient meets criteria, the applicant must return to the Hays County Clerk's Office, located in the Hays Co. Justice Center, to pay \$177.00 court costs. Affidavits of Inability to Pay Costs are available if necessary.