



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Co-Chair Toni Harp
House Co-Chair Terrie Wood
Honorable Members of the Mental Health Services Working Group,
Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention and Children's
Safety

FROM: Paul J. Knierim
Probate Court Administrator

DATE: January 29, 2013

Connecticut's Probate Courts are an integral part of our state's mental health delivery system. Each year, probate judges hear thousands of cases involving critical mental health issues in three primary categories:

Commitment for Treatment of Psychiatric Disability

In commitment proceedings, Probate Courts determine whether an individual should be involuntarily hospitalized for treatment of mental illness.

Involuntary Medication

Probate Courts hear petitions brought by psychiatric hospitals seeking to administer medication when a patient is incapable of informed consent or refuses to consent. Involuntary medication is permitted only when an individual is hospitalized.

Conservatorship

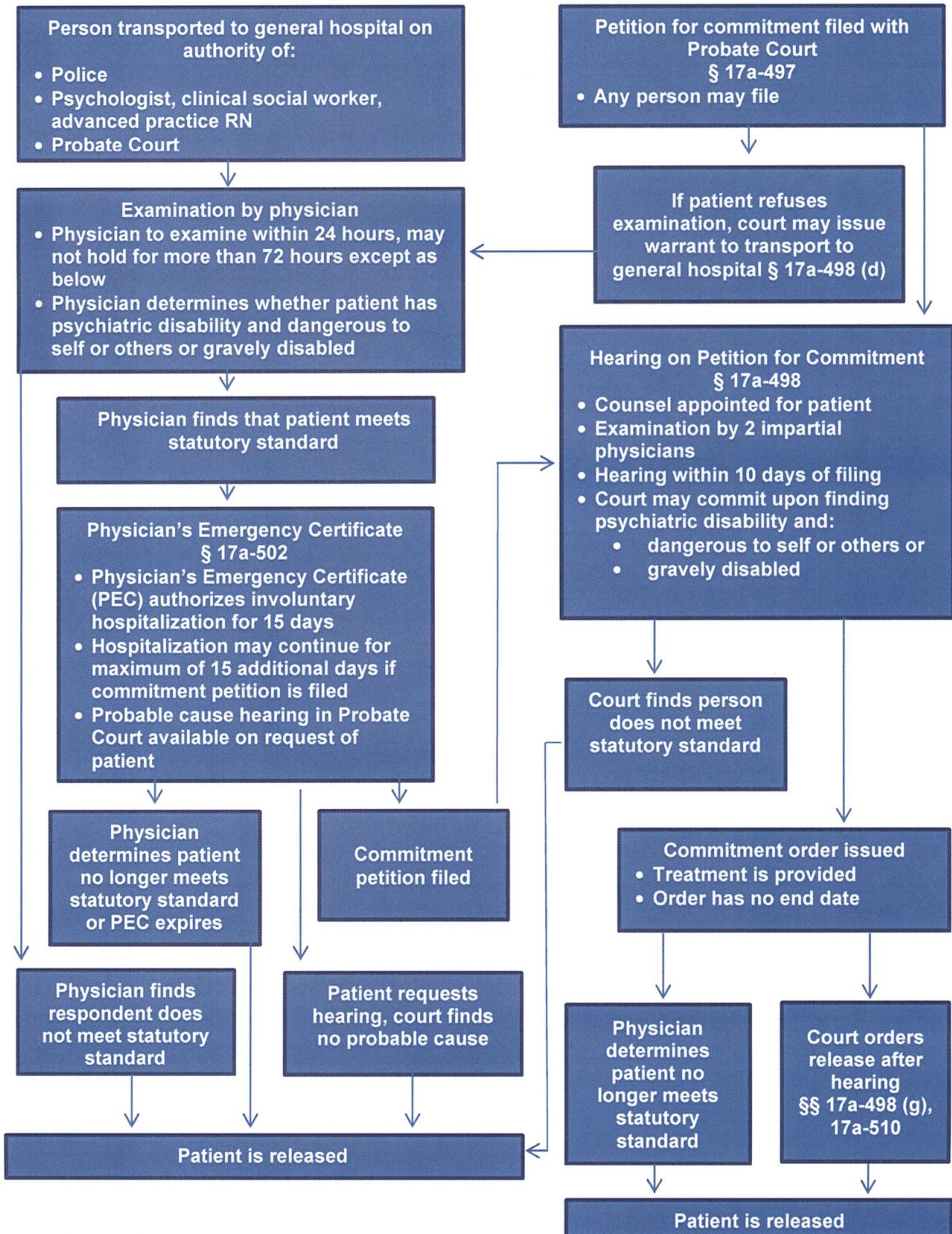
Probate Courts determine whether a conservator is needed to arrange housing, medical care, financial management and other supports for a person with mental illness.

To assist the Task Force in its work, we have prepared the attached flowcharts illustrating the procedures in commitment and involuntary medication cases.

Connecticut's probate judges and court staff have extensive experience in handling sensitive mental health matters and stand ready to assist the Task Force in its work. We welcome the opportunity to answer questions about current procedures or assist in developing new approaches.

Attachments (2)

Commitment of Persons with Psychiatric Disability C.G.S. §§ 17a-495 through 17a-528¹



¹ For persons under 16 see C.G.S. §§ 17a-75 to 17a-83.

Involuntary Administration of Medication for Treatment of Psychiatric Disability

C.G.S. § 17a-543 (e) and (f)

