CHAPTER 253B

CIVIL COMMITMENT

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253B.02 DEFINITIONS.

[For text of subds 1 to 9, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 10. **Interested person.** "Interested person" means:

(1) an adult, including but not limited to, a public official, including a local welfare agency acting under section 626.5561, and the legal guardian, spouse, parent, legal counsel, adult child, next of kin, or other person designated by a proposed patient; or

(2) a health plan company that is providing coverage for a proposed patient.

[For text of subds 11 to 12a, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 13. **Mentally ill person.** (a) "Mentally ill person" means any person who has an organic disorder of the brain or a substantial psychiatric disorder of thought, mood, perception, orientation, or memory which grossly impairs judgment, behavior, capacity to recognize reality, or to reason or understand, which is manifested by instances of grossly disturbed behavior or faulty perceptions and poses a substantial likelihood of physical harm to self or others as demonstrated by:

(1) a failure to obtain necessary food, clothing, shelter, or medical care as a result of the impairment;

(2) an inability for reasons other than indigence to obtain necessary food, clothing, shelter, or medical care as a result of the impairment and it is more probable than not that the person will suffer substantial harm, significant psychiatric deterioration or debilitation, or serious illness, unless appropriate treatment and services are provided;

(3) a recent attempt or threat to physically harm self or others; or

(4) recent and volitional conduct involving significant damage to substantial property.

(b) A person is not mentally ill under this section if the impairment is solely due to:

(1) epilepsy;

(2) mental retardation;

(3) brief periods of intoxication caused by alcohol, drugs, or other mind-altering substances; or

(4) dependence upon or addiction to any alcohol, drugs, or other mind-altering substances.

[For text of subds 14 to 23, see M.S.2000]

History: *1Sp2001 c 9 art 9 s 20,21*

NOTE: The amendment to subdivision 13 by Laws 2001, First Special Session chapter 9, article 9, section 21, is effective July 1, 2002. Laws 2001, First Special Session chapter 9, article 9, section 21, the effective date.

253B.03 RIGHTS OF PATIENTS.

Subdivision 1. **Restraints.** (a) A patient has the right to be free from restraints. Restraints shall not be applied to a patient in a treatment facility unless the head of the treatment facility, a member of the medical staff, or a licensed peace officer who has

custody of the patient determines that they are necessary for the safety of the patient or others.

(b) Restraints shall not be applied to patients with mental retardation except as permitted under section 245.825 and rules of the commissioner of human services. Consent must be obtained from the person or person's guardian except for emergency procedures as permitted under rules of the commissioner adopted under section 245.825.

(c) Each use of a restraint and reason for it shall be made part of the clinical record of the patient under the signature of the head of the treatment facility.

[For text of subds 2 to 4a, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 5. **Periodic assessment.** A patient has the right to periodic medical assessment, including assessment of the medical necessity of continuing care and, if the treatment facility declines to provide continuing care, the right to receive specific written reasons why continuing care is declined at the time of the assessment. The treatment facility shall assess the physical and mental condition of every patient as frequently as necessary, but not less often than annually. If the patient refuses to be examined, the facility shall document in the patient's chart its attempts to examine the patient. If a person is committed as mentally retarded for an indeterminate period of time, the three-year judicial review must include the annual reviews for each year as outlined in Minnesota Rules, part 9525.0075, subpart 6.

[For text of subds 6 to 8, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 10. **Notification.** All persons admitted or committed to a treatment facility shall be notified in writing of their rights regarding hospitalization and other treatment at the time of admission. This notification must include:

(1) patient rights specified in this section and section 144.651, including nursing home discharge rights;

(2) the right to obtain treatment and services voluntarily under this chapter;

(3) the right to voluntary admission and release under section 253B.04;

(4) rights in case of an emergency admission under section 253B.05, including the right to documentation in support of an emergency hold and the right to a summary hearing before a judge if the patient believes an emergency hold is improper;

(5) the right to request expedited review under section 62M.05 if additional days of inpatient stay are denied;

(6) the right to continuing benefits pending appeal and to an expedited administrative hearing under section 256.045 if the patient is a recipient of medical assistance, general assistance medical care, or MinnesotaCare; and

(7) the right to an external appeal process under section 62Q.73, including the right to a second opinion.

Subd. 11. **Proxy.** A legally authorized health care proxy, agent, guardian, or conservator may exercise the patient's rights on the patient's behalf.

History: *2001 c 26 s 1; 1Sp2001 c 9 art 9 s 22-24*

253B.04 VOLUNTARY TREATMENT AND ADMISSION PROCEDURES.

Subdivision 1. **Voluntary admission and treatment.** (a) Voluntary admission is preferred over involuntary commitment and treatment. Any person 16 years of age or older may request to be admitted to a treatment facility as a voluntary patient for observation, evaluation, diagnosis, care and treatment without making formal written application. Any person under the age of 16 years may be admitted as a patient with the consent of a parent or legal guardian if it is determined by independent examination that there is reasonable evidence that (1) the proposed patient has a mental illness, or is mentally retarded or chemically dependent; and (2) the proposed patient is suitable for treatment. The head of the treatment facility shall not arbitrarily refuse any person seeking admission as a voluntary patient. In making decisions regarding

admissions, the facility shall use clinical admission criteria consistent with the current applicable inpatient admission standards established by the American Psychiatric Association or the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. These criteria must be no more restrictive than, and must be consistent with, the requirements of section 62Q.53. The facility may not refuse to admit a person voluntarily solely because the person does not meet the criteria for involuntary holds under section 253B.05 or the definition of mental illness under section 253B.02, subdivision 13.

(b) In addition to the consent provisions of paragraph (a), a person who is 16 or 17 years of age who refuses to consent personally to admission may be admitted as a patient for mental illness or chemical dependency treatment with the consent of a parent or legal guardian if it is determined by an independent examination that there is reasonable evidence that the proposed patient is chemically dependent or has a mental illness and is suitable for treatment. The person conducting the examination shall notify the proposed patient and the parent or legal guardian of this determination.

Subd. 1a. **Voluntary treatment or admission for persons with mental illness.** (a) A person with a mental illness may seek or voluntarily agree to accept treatment or admission to a facility. If the mental health provider determines that the person lacks the capacity to give informed consent for the treatment or admission, and in the absence of a health care power of attorney that authorizes consent, the designated agency or its designee may give informed consent for mental health treatment or admission to a treatment facility on behalf of the person.

(b) The designated agency shall apply the following criteria in determining the person's ability to give informed consent:

(1) whether the person demonstrates an awareness of the person's illness, and the reasons for treatment, its risks, benefits and alternatives, and the possible consequences of refusing treatment; and

(2) whether the person communicates verbally or nonverbally a clear choice concerning treatment that is a reasoned one, not based on delusion, even though it may not be in the person's best interests.

(c) The basis for the designated agency's decision that the person lacks the capacity to give informed consent for treatment or admission, and that the patient has voluntarily accepted treatment or admission, must be documented in writing.

(d) A mental health provider that provides treatment in reliance on the written consent given by the designated agency under this subdivision or by a substitute decision maker appointed by the court is not civilly or criminally liable for performing treatment without consent. This paragraph does not affect any other liability that may result from the manner in which the treatment is performed.

(e) A person who receives treatment or is admitted to a facility under this subdivision or subdivision 1b has the right to refuse treatment at any time or to be released from a facility as provided under subdivision 2. The person or any interested person acting on the person's behalf may seek court review within five days for a determination of whether the person's agreement to accept treatment or admission is voluntary. At the time a person agrees to treatment or admission to a facility under this subdivision, the designated agency or its designee shall inform the person in writing of the person's rights under this paragraph.

(f) This subdivision does not authorize the administration of neuroleptic medications. Neuroleptic medications may be administered only as provided in section 253B.092.

Subd. 1b. **Court appointment of substitute decision maker.** If the designated agency or its designee declines or refuses to give informed consent under subdivision 1a, the person who is seeking treatment or admission, or an interested person acting on behalf of the person, may petition the court for appointment of a substitute decision maker who may give informed consent for voluntary treatment and services. In making this determination, the court shall apply the criteria in subdivision 1a, paragraph (b).

[For text of subd 2, see M.S.2000]

History: *1Sp2001 c 9 art 9 s 25-27*

253B.045 TEMPORARY CONFINEMENT.

[For text of subds 1 to 5, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 6. **Coverage.** (a) For purposes of this section, "mental health services" means all covered services that are intended to treat or ameliorate an emotional, behavioral, or psychiatric condition and that are covered by the policy, contract, or certificate of coverage of the enrollee's health plan company or by law.

(b) All health plan companies that provide coverage for mental health services must cover or provide mental health services ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction under a court order that is issued on the basis of a behavioral care evaluation performed by a licensed psychiatrist or a doctoral level licensed psychologist, which includes a diagnosis and an individual treatment plan for care in the most appropriate, least restrictive environment. The health plan company must be given a copy of the court order and the behavioral care evaluation. The health plan company shall be financially liable for the evaluation if performed by a participating provider of the health plan company and shall be financially liable for the care included in the court-ordered individual treatment plan if the care is covered by the health plan company and ordered to be provided by a participating provider or another provider as required by rule or law. This court-ordered coverage must not be subject to a separate medical necessity determination by a health plan company under its utilization procedures.

History: *1Sp2001 c 9 art 9 s 28*

253B.05 EMERGENCY ADMISSION.

Subdivision 1. **Emergency hold.** (a) Any person may be admitted or held for emergency care and treatment in a treatment facility with the consent of the head of the treatment facility upon a written statement by an examiner that:

(1) the examiner has examined the person not more than 15 days prior to admission;

(2) the examiner is of the opinion, for stated reasons, that the person is mentally ill, mentally retarded or chemically dependent, and is in danger of causing injury to self or others if not immediately detained; and

(3) an order of the court cannot be obtained in time to prevent the anticipated injury.

(b) If the proposed patient has been brought to the treatment facility by another person, the examiner shall make a good faith effort to obtain a statement of information that is available from that person, which must be taken into consideration in deciding whether to place the proposed patient on an emergency hold. The statement of information must include, to the extent available, direct observations of the proposed patient's behaviors, reliable knowledge of recent and past behavior, and information regarding psychiatric history, past treatment, and current mental health providers. The examiner shall also inquire into the existence of health care directives under chapter 145, and advance psychiatric directives under section 253B.03, subdivision 6d.

(c) The examiner's statement shall be: (1) sufficient authority for a peace or health officer to transport a patient to a treatment facility, (2) stated in behavioral terms and not in conclusory language, and (3) of sufficient specificity to provide an adequate record for review. If danger to specific individuals is a basis for the emergency hold, the statement must identify those individuals, to the extent practicable. A copy of the examiner's statement shall be personally served on the person immediately upon admission and a copy shall be maintained by the treatment facility.

[For text of subds 2 to 4, see M.S.2000]

History: *1Sp2001 c 9 art 9 s 29*

253B.065 COURT-ORDERED EARLY INTERVENTION; HEARING PROCEDURES.

[For text of subds 1 to 4, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 5. **Early intervention criteria.** (a) A court shall order early intervention treatment of a proposed patient who meets the criteria under paragraph (b). The early intervention treatment must be less intrusive than long-term inpatient commitment and must be the least restrictive treatment program available that can meet the patient's treatment needs.

(b) The court shall order early intervention treatment if the court finds all of the elements of the following factors by clear and convincing evidence:

(1) the proposed patient is mentally ill;

(2) the proposed patient refuses to accept appropriate mental health treatment; and

(3) the proposed patient's mental illness is manifested by instances of grossly disturbed behavior or faulty perceptions and either:

(i) the grossly disturbed behavior or faulty perceptions significantly interfere with the proposed patient's ability to care for self and the proposed patient, when competent, would have chosen substantially similar treatment under the same circumstances; or

(ii) due to the mental illness, the proposed patient received court-ordered inpatient treatment under section 253B.09 at least two times in the previous three years; the patient is exhibiting symptoms or behavior substantially similar to those that precipitated one or more of the court-ordered treatments; and the patient is reasonably expected to physically or mentally deteriorate to the point of meeting the criteria for commitment under section 253B.09 unless treated.

For purposes of this paragraph, a proposed patient who was released under section 253B.095 and whose release was not revoked is not considered to have received court-ordered inpatient treatment under section 253B.09.

(c) For purposes of paragraph (b), none of the following constitute a refusal to accept appropriate mental health treatment:

(1) a willingness to take medication but a reasonable disagreement about type or dosage;

(2) a good-faith effort to follow a reasonable alternative treatment plan, including treatment as specified in a valid advance directive under chapter 145C or section 253B.03, subdivision 6d;

(3) an inability to obtain access to appropriate treatment because of inadequate health care coverage or an insurer's refusal or delay in providing coverage for the treatment; or

(4) an inability to obtain access to needed mental health services because the provider will only accept patients who are under a court order or because the provider gives persons under a court order a priority over voluntary patients in obtaining treatment and services.

History: *1Sp2001 c 9 art 9 s 30*

253B.066 COURT-ORDERED EARLY INTERVENTION; DECISION; TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES; DURATION.

Subdivision 1. **Treatment alternatives.** If the court orders early intervention under section 253B.065, subdivision 5, the court may include in its order a variety of treatment alternatives including, but not limited to, day treatment, medication compliance monitoring, and short-term hospitalization not to exceed 21 days.

If the court orders short-term hospitalization and the proposed patient will not go voluntarily, the court may direct a health officer, peace officer, or other person to take the person into custody and transport the person to the hospital.

[For text of subds 2 and 3, see M.S.2000]

History: *1Sp2001 c 9 art 9 s 31*

253B.07 JUDICIAL COMMITMENT; PRELIMINARY PROCEDURES.

Subdivision 1. **Prepetition screening.** (a) Prior to filing a petition for commitment of or early intervention for a proposed patient, an interested person shall apply to the designated agency in the county of the proposed patient's residence or presence for conduct of a preliminary investigation, except when the proposed patient has been acquitted of a crime under section 611.026 and the county attorney is required to file a petition for commitment. The designated agency shall appoint a screening team to conduct an investigation. The petitioner may not be a member of the screening team. The investigation must include:

(i) a personal interview with the proposed patient and other individuals who appear to have knowledge of the condition of the proposed patient. If the proposed patient is not interviewed, specific reasons must be documented;

(ii) identification and investigation of specific alleged conduct which is the basis for application;

(iii) identification, exploration, and listing of the specific reasons for rejecting or recommending alternatives to involuntary placement;

(iv) in the case of a commitment based on mental illness, the following information, if it is known or available, that may be relevant to the administration of neuroleptic medications, including the existence of a declaration under section 253B.03, subdivision 6d, or a health care directive under chapter 145C or a guardian, conservator, proxy, or agent with authority to make health care decisions for the proposed patient; information regarding the capacity of the proposed patient to make decisions regarding administration of neuroleptic medication; and whether the proposed patient is likely to consent or refuse consent to administration of the medication;

(v) seeking input from the proposed patient's health plan company to provide the court with information about services the enrollee needs and the least restrictive alternatives; and

(vi) in the case of a commitment based on mental illness, information listed in clause (iv) for other purposes relevant to treatment.

(b) In conducting the investigation required by this subdivision, the screening team shall have access to all relevant medical records of proposed patients currently in treatment facilities. The interviewer shall inform the proposed patient that any information provided by the proposed patient may be included in the prepetition screening report and may be considered in the commitment proceedings. Data collected pursuant to this clause shall be considered private data on individuals. The prepetition screening report is not admissible as evidence except by agreement of counsel or as permitted by this chapter or the rules of court and is not admissible in any court proceedings unrelated to the commitment proceedings.

(c) The prepetition screening team shall provide a notice, written in easily understood language, to the proposed patient, the petitioner, persons named in a declaration under chapter 145C or section 253B.03, subdivision 6d, and, with the proposed patient's consent, other interested parties. The team shall ask the patient if the patient wants the notice read and shall read the notice to the patient upon request. The notice must contain information regarding the process, purpose, and legal effects of civil commitment and early intervention. The notice must inform the proposed patient that:

(1) if a petition is filed, the patient has certain rights, including the right to a court-appointed attorney, the right to request a second examiner, the right to attend

hearings, and the right to oppose the proceeding and to present and contest evidence; and

(2) if the proposed patient is committed to a state regional treatment center or group home, the patient may be billed for the cost of care and the state has the right to make a claim against the patient's estate for this cost.

The ombudsman for mental health and mental retardation shall develop a form for the notice which includes the requirements of this paragraph.

(d) When the prepetition screening team recommends commitment, a written report shall be sent to the county attorney for the county in which the petition is to be filed. The statement of facts contained in the written report must meet the requirements of subdivision 2, paragraph (b).

(e) The prepetition screening team shall refuse to support a petition if the investigation does not disclose evidence sufficient to support commitment. Notice of the prepetition screening team's decision shall be provided to the prospective petitioner and to the proposed patient.

(f) If the interested person wishes to proceed with a petition contrary to the recommendation of the prepetition screening team, application may be made directly to the county attorney, who shall determine whether or not to proceed with the petition. Notice of the county attorney's determination shall be provided to the interested party.

(g) If the proposed patient has been acquitted of a crime under section 611.026, the county attorney shall apply to the designated county agency in the county in which the acquittal took place for a preliminary investigation unless substantially the same information relevant to the proposed patient's current mental condition, as could be obtained by a preliminary investigation, is part of the court record in the criminal proceeding or is contained in the report of a mental examination conducted in connection with the criminal proceeding. If a court petitions for commitment pursuant to the rules of criminal or juvenile procedure or a county attorney petitions pursuant to acquittal of a criminal charge under section 611.026, the prepetition investigation, if required by this section, shall be completed within seven days after the filing of the petition.

Subd. 2. **The petition.** (a) Any interested person, except a member of the prepetition screening team, may file a petition for commitment in the district court of the county of the proposed patient's residence or presence. If the head of the treatment facility believes that commitment is required and no petition has been filed, the head of the treatment facility shall petition for the commitment of the person.

(b) The petition shall set forth the name and address of the proposed patient, the name and address of the patient's nearest relatives, and the reasons for the petition. The petition must contain factual descriptions of the proposed patient's recent behavior, including a description of the behavior, where it occurred, and the time period over which it occurred. Each factual allegation must be supported by observations of witnesses named in the petition. Petitions shall be stated in behavioral terms and shall not contain judgmental or conclusory statements.

(c) The petition shall be accompanied by a written statement by an examiner stating that the examiner has examined the proposed patient within the 15 days preceding the filing of the petition and is of the opinion that the proposed patient is suffering a designated disability and should be committed to a treatment facility. The statement shall include the reasons for the opinion. In the case of a commitment based on mental illness, the petition and the examiner's statement shall include, to the extent this information is available, a statement and opinion regarding the proposed patient's need for treatment with neuroleptic medication and the patient's capacity to make decisions regarding the administration of neuroleptic medications, and the reasons for the opinion. If use of neuroleptic medications is recommended by the treating physician, the petition for commitment must, if applicable, include or be accompanied by a request for proceedings under section 253B.092. Failure to include the required information regarding neuroleptic medications in the examiner's statement, or to

include a request for an order regarding neuroleptic medications with the commitment petition, is not a basis for dismissing the commitment petition. If a petitioner has been unable to secure a statement from an examiner, the petition shall include documentation that a reasonable effort has been made to secure the supporting statement.

[For text of subds 2a to 5, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 7. **Preliminary hearing.** (a) No proposed patient may be held in a treatment facility under a judicial hold pursuant to subdivision 6 longer than 72 hours, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, unless the court holds a preliminary hearing and determines that the standard is met to hold the person.

(b) The proposed patient, patient's counsel, the petitioner, the county attorney, and any other persons as the court directs shall be given at least 24 hours written notice of the preliminary hearing. The notice shall include the alleged grounds for confinement. The proposed patient shall be represented at the preliminary hearing by counsel. The court may admit reliable hearsay evidence, including written reports, for the purpose of the preliminary hearing.

(c) The court, on its motion or on the motion of any party, may exclude or excuse a proposed patient who is seriously disruptive or who is incapable of comprehending and participating in the proceedings. In such instances, the court shall, with specificity on the record, state the behavior of the proposed patient or other circumstances which justify proceeding in the absence of the proposed patient.

(d) The court may continue the judicial hold of the proposed patient if it finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that serious physical harm to the proposed patient or others is likely if the proposed patient is not immediately confined. If a proposed patient was acquitted of a crime against the person under section 611.026 immediately preceding the filing of the petition, the court may presume that serious physical harm to the patient or others is likely if the proposed patient is not immediately confined.

(e) Upon a showing that a person subject to a petition for commitment may need treatment with neuroleptic medications and that the person may lack capacity to make decisions regarding that treatment, the court may appoint a substitute decision-maker as provided in section 253B.092, subdivision 6. The substitute decision-maker shall meet with the proposed patient and provider and make a report to the court at the hearing under section 253B.08 regarding whether the administration of neuroleptic medications is appropriate under the criteria of section 253B.092, subdivision 7. If the substitute decision-maker consents to treatment with neuroleptic medications and the proposed patient does not refuse the medication, neuroleptic medication may be administered to the patient. If the substitute decision-maker does not consent or the patient refuses, neuroleptic medication may not be administered without a court order, or in an emergency as set forth in section 253B.092, subdivision 3.

History: *1Sp2001 c 9 art 9 s 32-34*

253B.09 DECISION; STANDARD OF PROOF; DURATION.

Subdivision 1. **Standard of proof.** (a) If the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the proposed patient is a mentally ill, mentally retarded, or chemically dependent person and after careful consideration of reasonable alternative dispositions, including but not limited to, dismissal of petition, voluntary outpatient care, voluntary admission to a treatment facility, appointment of a guardian or conservator, or release before commitment as provided for in subdivision 4, it finds that there is no suitable alternative to judicial commitment, the court shall commit the patient to the least restrictive treatment program or alternative programs which can meet the patient's treatment needs consistent with section 253B.03, subdivision 7.

(b) In deciding on the least restrictive program, the court shall consider a range of treatment alternatives including, but not limited to, community-based nonresidential treatment, community residential treatment, partial hospitalization, acute care hospital, and regional treatment center services. The court shall also consider the proposed patient's treatment preferences and willingness to participate voluntarily in the treat-

ment ordered. The court may not commit a patient to a facility or program that is not capable of meeting the patient's needs.

(c) If the court finds a proposed patient to be a mentally ill person under section 253B.02, subdivision 13, paragraph (a), clause (2) or (4), the court shall commit to a community-based program that meets the proposed patient's needs.

[For text of subds 2 to 5, see M.S.2000]

History: *1Sp2001 c 9 art 9 s 35*

NOTE: The amendment to subdivision 1 by Laws 2001, First Special Session chapter 9, article 9, section 35, is effective July 1, 2002. Laws 2001, First Special Session chapter 9, article 9, section 35, the effective date.

253B.10 PROCEDURES UPON COMMITMENT.

[For text of subds 1 to 3, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 4. **Private treatment.** Patients or other responsible persons are required to pay the necessary charges for patients committed or transferred to private treatment facilities. Private treatment facilities may not refuse to accept a committed person solely based on the person's court-ordered status. Insurers must provide treatment and services as ordered by the court under section 253B.045, subdivision 6, or as required under chapter 62M.

[For text of subd 5, see M.S.2000]

History: *1Sp2001 c 9 art 9 s 36*