


CONNECTICUT: EMERGENCY EVALUATION

Connecticut Statutes Title 17a, Chapter 319j; see page two for key definitions

CRITERIA	Has psychiatric disabilities <i>and</i> is dangerous to self or others or gravely disabled, <i>and</i> in need of immediate care and treatment in a hospital for psychiatric disabilities		
Who can initiate?	 Any person	 Police officer	 Mental health professional*
How?	File a written application to the <u>probate court</u> where the proposed patient resides or may be located.	Have reasonable cause that the person meets the criteria.	
What do they initiate?	Shall initiate court review	May initiate custody and transport by law enforcement	May issue an emergency certificate authorizing and directing custody and transport**
Where does the proposed patient go?	The court may issue a warrant for the proposed patient to be brought before the court.	The person will be transported to a general hospital.	
What's the time limit for the response?	Not specified.		
What happens?	The court determines if there is probable cause to believe the person meets criteria. If so, the court orders the person to be taken to a general hospital for examination within 24 hours of arrival.	The person is examined within 24 hours of arrival to determine if they meet criteria.	
What's next?	<p>The person may be held for continued observation and examination. If a physician determines that the person meets criteria, they may issue an emergency certificate for emergency custody and admission to a hospital for psychiatric disabilities for up to 15 days, without a court order, unless a written application for commitment has been filed in probate court before the 15 days expire. If no application is filed, the person shall be discharged.</p> <p>If during this admission, the person is found to no longer meet the criteria, the superintendent or director of the hospital shall immediately discharge the person.</p> <p>The person may request a hearing, which must be held within 72 business hours of receipt of the request.</p>		
What's the duration of the hold?	Up to 72 hours without an emergency certificate for hospitalization; up to 15 days with such certificate.		
Who decides whether to continue to a hearing?	Unclear. To proceed to a hearing, an application for involuntary commitment must be filed; however, the law does not specify which party is responsible for filing the application.		
Is there a form?	<u>Statewide form</u> (checkbox for emergency commitment)	<u>Physician's Emergency Certificate</u>	

*Licensed psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, advanced practice registered nurse, licensed professional counselor, or marital and family therapist.

**The statute does not specify the party or entity responsible for the transportation.

CRITERIA	Has psychiatric disabilities and is dangerous to self or others or gravely disabled.
Who can initiate?	 Any person
How?	File a written application to the <u>probate court</u> where the proposed patient resides or may be located.
Required documentation	Statement of belief that the person meets criteria. Specify and describe in detail information which supports this belief.
What's next?	<p>The probate court will schedule a hearing not later than ten business days after the date the application was filed. Before the hearing, the court shall select two impartial physicians to examine the person and make a report on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The specific psychiatric disabilities alleged; • Whether or not the person is dangerous to self or others; • Whether or not such illness has resulted or will result in serious disruption of the person's mental and behavioral functioning; • Whether or not hospital treatment is both necessary and available; • Whether or not less restrictive placement is recommended and available; and • Whether or not the person is incapable of understanding the need to accept the recommended treatment on a voluntary basis. <p>If the person refuses to be examined by the court-appointed physicians, the court may issue a warrant for the person to be brought to a general hospital by a police officer for examination.</p> <p>If, after the hearing, the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the individual meets the criteria, it will order commitment.</p>
Who issues the treatment order?	Probate court.
Who makes discharge decisions?	Treating facility or the court upon application.
Is there a form?	<u>Statewide form</u> (inpatient)

KEY DEFINITIONS

- **“Dangerous to self or others”** means there is a substantial risk that a person may physically harm themselves or others.
- **“Gravely disabled”** means that, because of mental or emotional impairment, a person is at risk of serious harm because they cannot take care of their basic human needs such as essential food, clothing, shelter, or safety, and need hospital treatment but is mentally incapable of deciding to accept treatment because their psychiatric disabilities impair judgment.
- **“Person with psychiatric disabilities”** means a person who has a mental or emotional condition which has substantial adverse effects on his or her ability to function and who requires care and treatment. It specifically excludes a person who is an “alcohol-dependent person” or a “drug-dependent person,” as defined by statute.