

Summit County Outpatient Commitment Step by Step Process

1/9/2017

A civil inpatient commitment will occur when a psychiatric patient is in the hospital and the psychiatrist testifies that the person meets the standard for involuntary hospitalization. The court then commits the patient to the ADM Board for 90 days. The board is notified of such commitments and maintains a system in which status and requests for extension are tracked.

Upon discharge from the hospital the inpatient commitment is automatically changed to outpatient commitment. The patient and their case manager are then required to appear for New Day Court and compliance reports are provided to the court and the Board. The treating psychiatrist is required to submit monthly reports on the patients' progress to the Board CCO. The Board maintains a tracking system for purposes of determining the efficacy of the program.

One month prior to expiration the treating psychiatrist is sent notice that the patients commitment will expire in 30 days. If the psychiatrist determines that the patient no longer meets criteria and OPC is not required for the patient to comply with treatment the OPC is discontinued on the expiration date.

If the treating psychiatrist believes that the patient would benefit from remaining on OPC, a form must be completed stating such. Once signed, the form goes to Barry Ward Esq., legal representation for the Board at OPC hearings. Mr. Ward completes an additional form and submits the form along with the psychiatrist's statement to the Probate Court to set a hearing. The Probate court requires 2 weeks to issue subpoenas giving notice of the hearing to the patient, the case manager and the psychiatrist.

Hearings for extensions of OPC are done at CSS on the 4th Tuesday of the Month. Additional hearings may be set to avoid unnecessary releases from OPC. The psychiatrist or his designee (psychiatrist) must be present at the hearing. The case manager must be present as well. The patient is encouraged to attend but not required.