



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

In response to your inquiry regarding a three-party petition for mental health commitment, Wisconsin Statutes define "Mental Illness" as a person who experiences substantial disorder of thought, mood, perception, orientation, or memory which grossly impairs judgment, behavior, capacity to recognize reality, or the ability to meet the ordinary demands of life, but does not include alcoholism. The condition must be treatable through the use of psychological, educational, social, medical techniques designed to rehabilitate the individual. Wisconsin statutes require three adults to sign the petition. At least one of the petitioners must have first-hand knowledge of the person's need for treatment to provide information to the court. We are asking you provide this information in writing. The petitioners must be willing to testify in court if necessary.

Listed on the back of this letter is the criteria needed for a mental health commitment. At least one criterion must be met in order to initiate an involuntary commitment. The information should be specific and recent, including dates.

Please make sure the name of the person you are writing about is at the beginning of the letter. **Your** name, address, telephone number, and signature are also needed on the letter.

Once the letters are completed, please contact our office. We will then schedule an appointment to meet with the petitioners and discuss the case and whether or not grounds exist to move forward with a petition for examination and commitment. If the information provided meets the criteria for commitment, mental health staff will consult the county's Corporation Counsel to determine appropriateness of an involuntary commitment and treatment order. Corporation Counsel will make the final determination if grounds have been met to pursue a commitment. All petitioners must come to the office in order to sign a petition under oath. It is preferable that the signatures be collected on the same day.

Please address your letters to:

Chippewa County Recovery & Wellness Consortium
Chippewa County Courthouse
711 N Bridge Street, Room 118
Chippewa Falls WI 54729

Please contact us if you have any further questions at 715-726-7788.

Sincerely,

Recovery & Wellness Consortium

FIVE STANDARDS FOR INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT

- a. evidence of recent threats of or attempts at suicide or serious bodily harm, and/or;
- b. Evidences a substantial probability of physical harm to himself/herself as manifested by Evidences a substantial probably of physical harm to other individuals as manifested by evidence of recent homicidal or other violent behavior, or by evidence that others are placed in reasonable fear of violent behavior and serious physical harm to them, as evidenced by a recent overt act, attempt or threat to do such physical harm, and/or;
- c. Evidences such impaired judgment manifested by evidence of a pattern of recent acts or omissions that there is a very substantial probability of physical impairment or injury to himself/herself and that reasonable provision for his/her protection is not available in the community and the subject is not appropriate for protective placement, and/or;
- d. Behavior manifested by a recent act or omission that, due to mental illness or drug dependency, he or she is unable to satisfy basic needs of nourishment, medical care, shelter or safety without prompt and adequate treatment so that a substantial probability exists that death, serious physical injury, serious physical debilitation or serious physical disease will imminently ensue unless the individual receives prompt and adequate treatment for this mental illness or drug dependency. No substantial probability of harm exists if reasonable provision for the individual's treatment and protection is available in the community.
- e. For an individual, other than an individual who is believed to be drug dependent or developmentally disabled, all of the following:

After the advantages and disadvantages of and alternatives to accepting a particular medication or treatment have been explained to him/her and because of mental illness, either incapability of expressing an understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of accepting medication or treatment and the alternatives, or substantial incapability of applying an understanding of the advantages, disadvantages and alternatives to his/her mental illness in order to make an informed choice as to whether to accept or refuse medication or treatment.

A substantial probability, as demonstrated by both the individual's treatment history and his/her recent acts or omissions, that the individual needs care or treatment prevent further disability or deterioration and a substantial probability that he/she will, if left untreated, lack services necessary for his/her health or safety and suffer severe mental, emotional or physical harm that will result in the loss of the individual's ability to function independently in the community or the loss of cognitive or volitional control over his/her thoughts or actions. The probability of suffering severe mental, emotional or physical harm is not substantial under this subd.5.b if reasonable provision for the individual's care or treatment is available in the community and there is a reasonable probability that the individual will avail himself/herself of these services or if the individual is appropriate for protective placement under s.55.06. Food, shelter or other care for himself/herself by any person other than a treatment facility does not constitute provision for the individual's care or treatment in the community reasonable under this subd.5.b. The individual's status as a minor does not automatically establish a substantial probability of suffering severe mental, emotional or physical harm under this subd.5.b.