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Frequently Asked Questions on the Mental Health Crisis Hold Process

▾ What is the difference between capacity and competence?



▾ How does lack of capacity or incompetence impact the ability to consent for hospitalization?

- ▼ How do guardianships, Powers of Attorney, and Psychiatric Advanced Directives affect the mental health crisis hold and the court ordered admission process?

- ▾ What are circumstances or symptoms to look forward when placing patients on a mental health crisis hold?

Can I initiate a mental health crisis hold if the patient has a diagnosis that is exempt in NRS44A?

NRS 433A.0175 “**Person in a mental health crisis**” defined.

1. “Person in a mental health crisis” means any person:
 - (a) Who has a mental illness; and
 - (b) Whose capacity to exercise self-control, judgment and discretion in the conduct of the person’s affairs and social relations or to care for his or her personal needs is diminished, as a result of the mental illness, to the extent that the person presents a substantial likelihood of serious harm to himself or herself or others, as determined pursuant to NRS 433A.0195.
2. **The term does not include any person in whom that capacity is diminished by epilepsy, intellectual disability, dementia, delirium, brief periods of intoxication caused by alcohol or drugs, or dependence upon or addiction to alcohol or other substances, unless a mental illness that can be diagnosed is also present which contributes to the diminished capacity of the person.**

- What are the DOs of completing mental health crisis hold paperwork?

Be specific

State the facts of observed behaviors and the circumstances of person's presentation

What are the DONTs of completing mental health crisis hold paperwork?

Don't use diagnosis as grounds for the hold

Don't summarize observed person's presentation with psychiatric terminology

Don't offer personal opinions unless you observed and documented person's behaviors and circumstances leading you to believe that they are in mental health crisis

- Why are there different licensures required depending on the different sections of the mental health crisis hold packet?

How does individual patient circumstances affect the finding of the least restrictive environment?

Making sense of the criteria

NRS 433A.0195 Person deemed to present substantial likelihood of serious harm to himself or herself or others in certain circumstances. For the purposes of this chapter, a person shall be deemed to present a substantial likelihood of serious harm to himself or herself or others if, without care or treatment, the person is at serious risk of:

1. Attempting suicide or homicide;
2. Causing bodily injury to himself or herself or others, including, without limitation, death, unconsciousness, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement or a protracted loss or impairment of a body part, organ or mental functioning; or
3. Incurring a serious injury, illness or death resulting from complete neglect of basic needs for food, clothing, shelter or personal safety.

- ▾ When does the 72-hours start when someone is placed on a mental health crisis hold?

▾ What happens if I submit a petition after 72 hours?



- ▼ When can a patient be administered psychotropic medications against their will?