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Things to know when filing an Involuntary Commitment (IVC) for Mental Health Issues

When a loved one or friend is a danger to themselves or someone else, you can dial 911 and request a well-being check. You may also have the option to help file a Petition for Involuntary Commitment for Mental Health issues. Typically, the County Sheriff is a resource to help with starting this process. There are some pieces of information they will want to know:

Name of the person filing the petition _____

Name of the individual petition is being filed on

_____

Specific reason of the danger

_____

Summarize the reasons the danger is present (citing detailed information including specific behaviors/incidents you are aware of and their timeframe).

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

How and when did the person's situation come to your attention? Is there new information available (from you or someone else)?

_____
_____

What is your relationship to the person at risk? (i.e. family member, friend, counselor, police officer, witness, or other)

_____
_____

Personal information about the person of concern:

Address:

_____
_____

Current location (if different than address):

_____
_____

Phone number: _____

Age/DOB: _____

Marital Status: _____

Occupation: _____

Veteran Status: _____

Name of closest relative or guardian: _____

Address of relative: _____

Contact number of relative: _____

Is the above person classified as having a chronic disability or a medical condition that they have been or are being treated for? If so, please provide that information.

_____

Are there other people that have an interest and more knowledge that would be helpful for evaluation of this petition? Please submit the additional information.

_____

Keep in mind:

- This is simply a tool to help people understand what information may be needed when filing an IVC. Individuals MUST physically fo to the courthouse to fill out an application for an IVC.
- The person must meet the 3 criteria talked about in the state statutes (SDCL 27A-1-1), (SDCL 27A-1-2) of 1) having a severe mental illness, **and** 2) due to severe mental illness, the individual presents a danger to self or others or has a chronic disability, **and** 3) the individual needs and is likely to benefit from treatment.
- A person not taking their prescribed medication does not automatically make them eligible for an involuntary mental health hold.
- Chronic Drug and/or alcohol use is not an involuntary *mental health* hold. There is a different process for that hold. (SDCL 34-20A-70)
- If you have information about the person's previous mental health holds, mental health treatments, mental health medications, mental health providers (dates and names of facilities the person has been treated) is helpful information to provide.
- When contacting law enforcement, they will want to know if the person at risk has any weapons or other items in the person's presence that may increase the danger to themselves and responding officers.
- Does this person have special needs that will have to be considered if placed on a hold, or while waiting for evaluation or placement?

For more information on involuntary commitment, call 988 or search our online database:

- www.helplinecenter.org/9-8-8
    - Enter your zip code
        - Select
            - Mental Health category
            - Suicide Prevention and Support

Sources: *This information was adapted from the Petition for Involuntary Mental Health in Minnehaha County, SD.
Disclaimer: This HelpSheet is developed by the Helpline Center. HelpSheets provide a brief overview of the designated topic. For more information, call 211 or text your zip code to 898211

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