

DHS Forensic Newsletter

September 2020



Provided by Wisconsin Community Services (WCS), supporting the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS)

In This Issue

- Distribution of forensic court orders and supporting documentation
- Kudos on your collaborative effort
- Impact of delays
- Transport vs. video appearance
- Training events



Distribution of forensic court orders and supporting documentation

Send all forensic-related court orders and supporting documents (criminal complaints and reports from examiners) to:

DHSMMHladmissions@dhs.wisconsin.gov

Additionally, distribute paperwork according to the instructions provided on the order form. CR-270, Order for Examination under Wis. Stat. § 971.16 (Not Guilty by Reason of Mental Disease or Defect), and CR-277, Order for Examination under Wis. Stat. § 971.17(4)(c) (Not Guilty by Reason of Mental Disease or Defect), must also be distributed directly to the court-appointed evaluator. This is not the responsibility of DHS.

Kudos on your collaborative effort

Between April 1, 2020-June 30, 2020, the state mental health institutes discharged 75 people committed for inpatient treatment to competency. At the request of DHS, court personnel coordinated earlier return to court dates in 30 of these cases. This coordination resulted in these individuals spending a total of 596 fewer days at the state mental health institutes.

Impact of delays

Please help keep cases moving through the court system by scheduling follow-up hearings for testimony or a second opinion and other issues in a timely manner. Between April 1, 2020-June 30, 2020, the state mental health institutes discharged 75 people who had been committed for inpatient treatment to competency restoration. The disposition of the DHS competency report was delayed in 10 of these cases. This resulted in these people spending 309 additional days at a state mental health institutes.

Transport vs. video appearance

Individuals who have been committed under Wis. Stat. § 971.14(5), and are receiving competency restoration at a DHS facility, need to be transported for a competency hearing when the court has received an opinion from DHS that the person is either competent or not competent and not likely to become within the statutory timeframe. If the court has received an opinion of not competent but likely to become competent, then DHS requests that any hearing that is scheduled on this report be done via video or teleconference. Doing this will prevent a disruption in the treatment of the person, as well as avoid delays in admissions of other people awaiting admission because all admission and readmissions must be admitted to the quarantine unit upon return to the DHS facility.

Training events

The DHS Bureau of Community Forensic Services requested to present this year at the annual conferences for the judges, clerk of courts, and attorneys.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Clerk of Court Association Conference is cancelled for this year.

The Criminal Law and Sentencing Institute Annual Conference was held in August over Zoom. A DHS panel was chosen to present during the condensed format. The DHS panel remains hopeful that they will be able to present at the Criminal Defense Annual Conference in November.

Please visit the [WCS Court Liaison and Tracking Service website](#) if you would like to schedule a training in your county.

Contact Us

Adam Oldenburg
Court Liaison
414-750-3519
aoldenburg@wiscs.org

Vicki Shequen
Assistant Court Liaison
414-303-7547
vshequen@wiscs.org