

Peace Officer Or Health Officer Hold

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If a friend or family member has a mental health or addiction crisis and 911 is called, emergency services will respond to the call.

A peace officer or health officer may decide to take the person into custody on a peace officer or health officer hold, without consent, if the officer believes the person may:

- have a mental health condition
- be under the influence of drugs or alcohol (intoxication)

and

- be at risk to harm themselves or others.

If the officer places the hold, the person will be taken to the hospital.

What to Expect

If your friend or family member is placed on a hold, it will remain until the examiner has assessed them and determined the person:

- does not meet the criteria to be hospitalized and they will leave the hospital

or

- does meet the criteria to be hospitalized and the person **agrees** to be admitted

or

- does meet the criteria to be hospitalized and the person **does not agree** to be admitted. The person is placed on an emergency hold and admitted to the hospital.

This can take up to several hours from the time the 911 call is placed.

What You Should Do

After the first responders arrive and you have answered any questions they ask, you should:

- follow any instructions they give you
- ask to what hospital the person is being taken.

What happens next depends on each situation.

- In general, it is recommended to have 1 or 2 people go to the hospital after the ambulance has left.
- After arriving at the hospital, you may be asked to wait in the waiting area.
- Staff will come to the waiting area to bring you back to the room.
- You may be asked more questions about the person or the reason for the 911 call. Give any information you feel is important for staff to know (even if the person hasn't given permission).