

# Peace Officer Or Health Officer Hold

## Peace Officer or Health Officer Hold

If your friend or family member has experienced a crisis related to mental health or addiction and 911 is called, emergency services will arrive to 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 him- or herself, 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 him or her and determined the person:

- does not meet the criteria to be hospitalized and he or she 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 was 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 one or two 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 for a period of time.
- 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. Please give any information you feel is important for staff to know (even if the person hasn't given permission).