

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

An Act to amend and reenact § 37.2-809 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia; supervision of magistrates.

[S 753]

Approved

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 37.2-809 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 37.2-809. Involuntary temporary detention; issuance and execution of order.

A. For the purposes of this section:

"Designee of the local community services board" means an examiner designated by the local community services board who (i) is skilled in the assessment and treatment of mental illness, (ii) has completed a certification program approved by the Department, (iii) is able to provide an independent examination of the person, (iv) is not related by blood or marriage to the person being evaluated, (v) has no financial interest in the admission or treatment of the person being evaluated, (vi) has no investment interest in the facility detaining or admitting the person under this article, and (vii) except for employees of state hospitals and of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, is not employed by the facility.

"Employee" means an employee of the local community services board who is skilled in the assessment and treatment of mental illness and has completed a certification program approved by the Department.

"Investment interest" means the ownership or holding of an equity or debt security, including shares of stock in a corporation, interests or units of a partnership, bonds, debentures, notes, or other equity or debt instruments.

B. A magistrate shall issue, upon the sworn petition of any responsible person, treating physician, or upon his own motion and only after an evaluation conducted in-person or by means of a two-way electronic video and audio communication system as authorized in § 37.2-804.1 by an employee or a designee of the local community services board to determine whether the person meets the criteria for temporary detention, a temporary detention order if it appears from all evidence readily available, including any recommendation from a physician or clinical psychologist treating the person, that the person (i) has a mental illness and that there exists a substantial likelihood that, as a result of mental illness, the person will, in the near future, (a) cause serious physical harm to himself or others as evidenced by recent behavior causing, attempting, or threatening harm and other relevant information, if any, or (b) suffer serious harm due to his lack of capacity to protect himself from harm or to provide for his basic human needs, (ii) is in need of hospitalization or treatment, and (iii) is unwilling to volunteer or incapable of volunteering for hospitalization or treatment. The magistrate shall also consider the recommendations of any treating or examining physician licensed in Virginia if available either verbally or in writing prior to rendering a decision. Any temporary detention order entered pursuant to this section shall provide for the disclosure of medical records pursuant to § 37.2-804.2. This subsection shall not preclude any other disclosures as required or permitted by law.

C. When considering whether there is probable cause to issue a temporary detention order, the magistrate may, in addition to the petition, consider (i) the recommendations of any treating or examining physician or psychologist licensed in Virginia, if available, (ii) any past actions of the person, (iii) any past mental health treatment of the person, (iv) any relevant hearsay evidence, (v) any medical records available, (vi) any affidavits submitted, if the witness is unavailable and it so states in the affidavit, and (vii) any other information available that the magistrate considers relevant to the determination of whether probable cause exists to issue a temporary detention order.

D. A magistrate may issue a temporary detention order without an emergency custody order proceeding. A magistrate may issue a temporary detention order without a prior evaluation pursuant to subsection B if (i) the person has been personally examined within the previous 72 hours by an employee or a designee of the local community services board or (ii) there is a significant physical, psychological, or medical risk to the person or to others associated with conducting such evaluation.

E. An employee or a designee of the local community services board shall determine the facility of temporary detention for all individuals detained pursuant to this section. The facility of temporary detention shall be one that has been approved pursuant to regulations of the Board. The facility shall be identified on the preadmission screening report and indicated on the temporary detention order. Except as provided in § 37.2-811 for inmates requiring hospitalization in accordance with subdivision A 2 of § 19.2-169.6, the person shall not be detained in a jail or other place of confinement for persons charged

57 with criminal offenses and shall remain in the custody of law enforcement until the person is either
58 detained within a secure facility or custody has been accepted by the appropriate personnel designated
59 by the facility identified in the temporary detention order.

60 F. Any facility caring for a person placed with it pursuant to a temporary detention order is
61 authorized to provide emergency medical and psychiatric services within its capabilities when the facility
62 determines that the services are in the best interests of the person within its care. The costs incurred as a
63 result of the hearings and by the facility in providing services during the period of temporary detention
64 shall be paid and recovered pursuant to § 37.2-804. The maximum costs reimbursable by the
65 Commonwealth pursuant to this section shall be established by the State Board of Medical Assistance
66 Services based on reasonable criteria. The State Board of Medical Assistance Services shall, by
67 regulation, establish a reasonable rate per day of inpatient care for temporary detention.

68 G. The employee or the designee of the local community services board who is conducting the
69 evaluation pursuant to this section shall determine, prior to the issuance of the temporary detention
70 order, the insurance status of the person. Where coverage by a third party payor exists, the facility
71 seeking reimbursement under this section shall first seek reimbursement from the third party payor. The
72 Commonwealth shall reimburse the facility only for the balance of costs remaining after the allowances
73 covered by the third party payor have been received.

74 H. The duration of temporary detention shall be sufficient to allow for completion of the examination
75 required by § 37.2-815, preparation of the preadmission screening report required by § 37.2-816, and
76 initiation of mental health treatment to stabilize the person's psychiatric condition to avoid involuntary
77 commitment where possible, but shall not exceed 48 hours prior to a hearing. If the 48-hour period
78 herein specified terminates on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the person may be detained, as
79 herein provided, until the close of business on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal
80 holiday. The person may be released, pursuant to § 37.2-813, before the 48-hour period herein specified
81 has run.

82 I. If a temporary detention order is not executed within 24 hours of its issuance, or within a shorter
83 period as is specified in the order, the order shall be void and shall be returned unexecuted to the office
84 of the clerk of the issuing court or, if the office is not open, to any magistrate serving the jurisdiction of
85 the issuing court. Subsequent orders may be issued upon the original petition within 96 hours after the
86 petition is filed. However, a magistrate must again obtain the advice of an employee or a designee of
87 the local community services board prior to issuing a subsequent order upon the original petition. Any
88 petition for which no temporary detention order or other process in connection therewith is served on
89 the subject of the petition within 96 hours after the petition is filed shall be void and shall be returned
90 to the office of the clerk of the issuing court.

91 J. The ~~chief judge of each general district court~~ *Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia*
92 shall establish and require that a magistrate, as provided by this section, be available seven days a week,
93 24 hours a day, for the purpose of performing the duties established by this section. Each community
94 services board shall provide to each general district court and magistrate's office within its service area a
95 list of its employees and designees who are available to perform the evaluations required herein.

96 K. For purposes of this section a ~~healthcare~~ *health care* provider or designee of a local community
97 services board or behavioral health authority shall not be required to encrypt any email containing
98 information or medical records provided to a magistrate unless there is reason to believe that a third
99 party will attempt to intercept the email.

100 L. The employee or designee of the community services board who is conducting the evaluation
101 pursuant to this section shall, if he recommends that the person should not be subject to a temporary
102 detention order, inform the petitioner and an ~~on-site~~ *onsite* treating physician of his recommendation.