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7-11-2014
Incarceration Prevention
& Reduction Task
Force

CIVIL COMMITMENTS

(and their frequent interface with the Criminal Justice System)

Legal Basis: RCW 71.05

Initial Contact: 1) Self-Report/Transport to Hospital ER; 2) Family/Friends Transport to Hospital; 3) Law Enforcement Contact/Transport; 4) Designated Mental Health Professional Contact with variety of means of Transport; 5) Jail Contact with/Transport to Hospital

Initial Detention: 1) Voluntary Self-Commitment; 2) DMHP determination, with 72-hour hold in hospital.

Fourteen (14) Day, Court-Ordered Commitment

Ninety (90) or One Hundred Eighty (180) Day Court-Ordered Commitment

Bases for Detention in the Mental Health Facilities:

- 1) Imminent Risk of Serious Harm as a Result of Diagnosed Mental Condition
 - a) to self; or
 - b) to others. or
- 2) Person is Gravely Disabled as a Result of Diagnosed Mental Condition.

Comments:

Many persons who suffer from mental illness nonetheless do not meet the standard for commitment.

There is no bright line between behavior that manifests mental illness and criminal intent, with the subsequent reality that the line between jail and hospital commitment is often porous and can shift with time and circumstance.