Welfare & Institutions Code – Involuntary Treatment (Chapter 2)
Article 1 – Detention of Mentally Disordered Persons for Evaluation & Treatment

As Envisioned - 1967

Person

Designated Facility (“State Clinic”)

Release Hold

Pre-Admission Assessment

Voluntary Treatment In- or Outpatient

Involuntary Admission (up to 72 hrs.)

Code Section

5150
Probable Cause Detainment

5151
Detention for Evaluation Individual assessment prior to admission

5152
Admitted for 72-hr. Evaluation, Treatment & Care

Current Process - 2016

Person

Non-Designated Hospital Emergency Department

Designated Hospital Emergency Department

Crisis Stabilization Unit (or equivalent)

Designated Hospital / Psychiatric Health Facility

Probable Cause Assessment for Hold (by county team or authorized professional)

Hold (or hold for transfer**)

Release Hold

Pre-Admission Assessment

Involuntary Admission (up to 72 hrs.)

Voluntary Treatment

Voluntary Treatment

* Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act
** Some counties require authorization before a hold for transfer.

Code Section

5150

5151

5152

Welfare & Institutions Code 1799.111 24-hr. Hold

EMTALA* Requirements
• Emergency Services
• Psych. Screening
• Medical Clearance

Welfare & Institutions Code available online at www.calhospital.org/lps-act

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