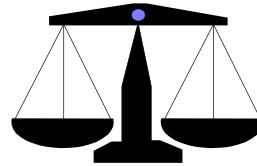


What Is Mental Health Crisis Court?



The Mental Health Crisis Court is a division of the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas responsible for administering Pennsylvania's involuntary commitment laws for persons with mental illness. Patients may retain private legal counsel if they wish. For those who do not retain private legal counsel, a court appointed attorney will be present. Individuals under the age of 18 years should be accompanied by a family member or guardian.

Where is the Mental Health Crisis Court?

Mental Health Court Hearings are held at the Delaware County Courthouse in Media, PA. All Delaware County Mental Health Court hearings are held virtually. Any Questions/Concerns, please call the MH Office at (610) 713-2365.

When is Crisis Court ?

Court is regularly held on Tuesday and Friday mornings beginning at 9:30 am.

In the event of a holiday, check with the inpatient social worker.



What happens at a Mental Health Crisis Hearing?

A 302 is a petition for an involuntary commitment of up to 120 hours. The 302 must be filed by the person who observed the behavior. If the hospital treatment team recommends further hospitalization beyond the 120 hours, a Mental Health 303 Hearing is scheduled. A patient has the right to agree or disagree with what the 302 petition says and with the treatment team's recommendation for further hospitalization. Testimony from both sides of the issue will be heard by the Court. If the Mental Health Review Officer determines the patient should be held for further treatment, a 303 Order is issued. This is a court order for extended treatment in a psychiatric setting for a period of no more than 20 days. It is suggested that the 302 petitioner attend via virtual meeting or telephone to offer testimony for the court hearing.

**A 302 is a Petition for
involuntary commitment of up
to 120 hours. A 303 is a Court
Order for extended treatment of
no more than 20 days.**

What to expect on the day of Crisis Court

Prior to the Crisis Court Hearing each patient will be given the opportunity to speak with the appointed patient attorney. The patient's psychiatrist reviews all relevant information prior to the court hearing. The 302 petitioner is encouraged to be available for the court hearing via virtual meeting or telephone to offer testimony written on the 302 petition. Family and friends may be present for the court hearing via virtual meeting or telephone if the patient provides consent.

When a patient agrees to receive further treatment, the patient is connected to a virtual meeting to enter his/her agreement for continued treatment on record before a hearing officer.

When a patient requests a hearing, the patient is connected to a virtual meeting to tell the Court why he/she does not think that further treatment is required before a hearing officer. The hearing officer will render a decision that is in the best interest of the patient after listening to testimony from all parties.

Questions or concerns while at
Crisis Court should be directed to the Mental
Health Crisis Court Clerk

Crisis Court Contacts:

Crisis Court Coordinator Christina Baum 610-713-2365
Crisis Court Clerk Dion Gillard 610-713-2365
Patient Attorney Don Havens 484-472-8613

Family Peer Support
Available During Live Court Hours

Emergency Weather Information
Delaware County Main # 610-891-4000

**Delaware County
Mental Health
Crisis Court**



**Delaware County
Dept of Human Services
Mental Health Office
Drexeline
4990 State Rd Ste 101
Drexel Hill, PA 19026
610-713-2365**