

BASICS OF COLORADO MENTAL HEALTH LAW

Mental Health Holds (MHH):
 -Placed usually in emergent situations (e.g. suicidal, homicidal)
 -Can last up to 72 hours
 -Can discontinue before 72 hours if no longer meets criteria
 -Gives time for further emergent/urgent evaluation
 -Has to be “resolved” (voluntary treatment, certification, discontinued)
 -Temporarily suspends some civil rights in favor of safety
 →The person cannot leave the ED or hospital until resolved

Certifications:
 -More commonly “grave disability due to a mental illness”
 -Court has to approve or individual has to “stipulate”
 -Stipulation: Individual not contesting certification
 -Can be inside or outside hospital

Criteria for involuntary commitment:

1. Imminent danger to self
2. Imminent danger to others
3. Gravely disabled **due to a mental illness**

Who can place a MHH?

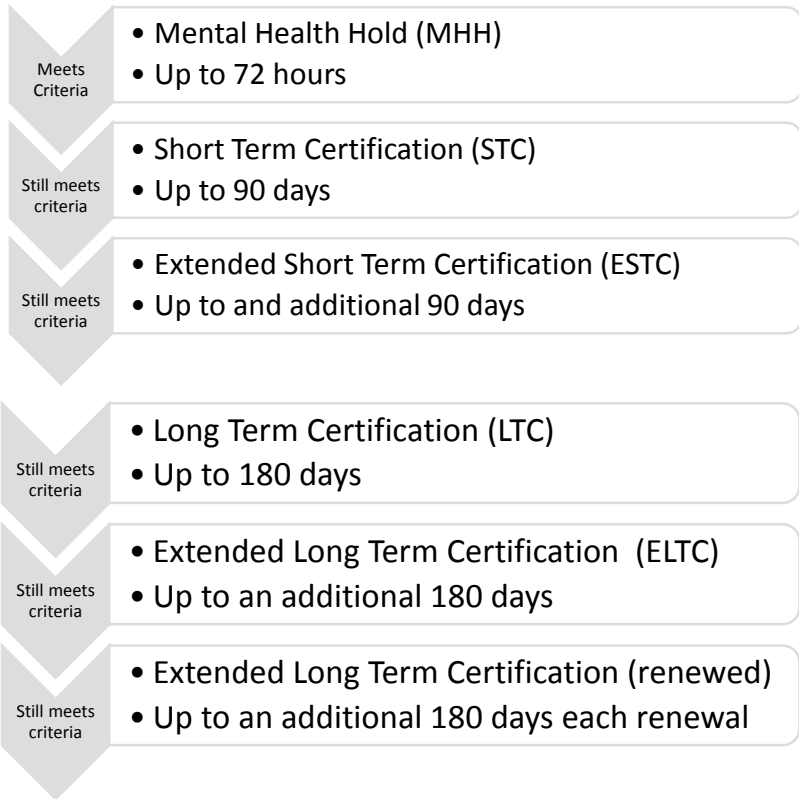
1. **Any** physician
2. Psychologists
3. Social Worker
4. Police officer
5. “Peace officer”
6. Family Therapist
7. LPC*
8. Nurse/APNs

* Licensed professional counselor

Who can resolve a MHH?

1. Psychiatrist
2. Psychologists

Colorado Involuntary Commitment Flow:



MHHs and certifications do NOT allow for involuntary medication administration!

Emergency and Involuntary Medications:

- MUST** be on a MHH or certification
- Emergency Meds (E-Meds):**
 - Can be given without court approval
 - Must be renewed everyday
 - Max 10 days of renewal before court
 - Must offer oral first
 - Can use IM as back up
 - Usually in ED or in hospital
- Involuntary Meds (I-Meds):**
 - Must have court approval
 - Usually oral with IM back up
 - Frequently use long acting injectables
 - Usually outpatient with system with wrap around services