



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Regarding Minnesota Emergency Hold and Commitment

Prairie St. John's is able to accept patients on a MN Emergency or Peace/Health Officer Hold and also able to initiate MN Holds and Commitment. This is the result of a MN Civil Commitment Contract that is hosted by Cass County and valid throughout the state of MN.

Below are some frequently asked questions regarding accessing services at Prairie St. John's for individuals on a MN hold. If you have additional questions, please contact our Needs Assessment and Referral team at 701-476-7216 regarding admission.

What does this mean?

Due to laws passed in Minnesota and North Dakota, patients under a hold order have the ability to receive treatment across state lines, allowing the individual to receive treatment at a qualified facility that may be closer to the individual's home or that is preferred for other reasons.

Although the agreement is between Prairie St. John's and Clay County, Clay County acts as a "host county" for all of Minnesota. Therefore, any county in Minnesota can access service at Prairie St. John's under this agreement.

Who can access services?

Any person (regardless of age) who is determined by an appropriately credentialed examiner, peace or health officer to be mentally ill, chemically dependent and in danger of injuring self or others if not immediately detained can be placed under a hold order and transported to Prairie St. John's.

Individuals with active involvement with the legal systems are not allowed under our host county agreement, and the hold for those individuals would not be valid to cross states. This includes those who are serving a sentence after conviction of a criminal offense, on probation or parole or are the subject of a pre-sentence investigation. Other individuals excluded in the host county agreement are those who have been committed involuntarily in Minnesota under Chapter 253B for treatment of mental illness or chemical dependency, except as provided under the special contract with Prairie St. John's and Clay County. Individuals not included in this contract will be subject to the Mental Health Laws of North Dakota

What are MN Pre-commitment Hold Orders?

There are 2 basic types of pre-commitment holds that are both for a maximum of 72 hours (excluding Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays):

- Emergency Holds (Examiner's Statement)
- Peace or Health Officer Holds

Who can place someone on a MN Emergency Hold (Examiner Statement)?

An Examiner is a person who is knowledgeable, trained, and practicing in the diagnosis and assessment or in the treatment of the alleged impairment and who is:

- A licensed physician
- A licensed physician assistant
- A licensed psychologist who has a doctoral degree in psychology (or who became a licensed consulting psychologist before 7/2/1975)
- An advanced practice registered nurse certified in mental health
- Under our contract, this also includes examiners at Prairie St. John's.

This provides sufficient authority for a peace or health officer to transport a patient to a treatment facility.

Who can place someone on a MN Peace or Health Officer Hold?

- Peace Officer means a municipal or other local Police Officer, Sheriff or a State Patrol Officer when engaged in the authorized duties of the office.
- Health Officer means a Licensed Physician, Licensed Physician Assistant, Licensed Psychologist, Licensed Social Worker, Registered Nurse working in an emergency room of a hospital, a Psychiatric or Public Health Nurse or a formally designated member of a pre-petition screening unit.

What do I need to know to get someone to Prairie St. John's on a MN Emergency or MN Peace/Health Officer Hold?

- Individual may be taken into custody and transported if person is mentally ill, chemically dependent or developmentally disabled and in danger of injuring self or other if not immediately detained
- Complete an Emergency Hold Order Application for Admission to the treatment facility including reasons for and circumstances under which the person was taken into custody. Also identify any specific individuals that are in danger. Provide a copy to patient and fax a copy to Prairie St. John's.
- Arrange for appropriate transportation per your agency's protocol.
- Call ahead to Prairie St. John's to let them know you are transporting a patient and to confirm a bed. Fax copy of hold documentation.

What happens upon arrival to Prairie St. John's with a MN Hold?

Patient is examined and admitted to facility if:

- Doctor agrees that the patient is mentally ill, chemically dependent or developmentally disabled and
- Finds the patient is in danger of harming self or others if not immediately detained.

If the patient is not determined to meet the above criteria, the patient may be urged to stay voluntarily. If the patient chooses to leave, transportation back to the residence is up to the individual and at their expense

How is the commitment process initiated once the patient has been admitted?

- Prairie St. John's faxes the MN county of residence to start the commitment process.
- The MN county assigns a person to the case to do a prescreen. From the prescreen outcome, the county representative determines whether to pursue MN commitment or to drop and let expire.
 - Pursue: If the county's decision is to pursue, Central Pre Admission (St. Paul) sets a court date. CBHH decides the facility to which the patient is committed.
 - Drop/Expire: If the county's decision is to drop or let the hold expire, Prairie St. John's offers the patient the opportunity to stay on a voluntary basis. If the patient chooses to leave, transportation back to the residence is the individual's responsibility and at their expense.

What are the types of MN Commitments?

- Chemically Dependent
- Mentally Ill
- Chemically Dependent and Mentally Ill
- Mentally Ill and Dangerous
- Developmentally Disabled
- Sexually Dangerous Person and Sexual Psychopathic Personality

In addition to an inability/deficit, there is a need to also prove that recent conduct poses a substantial likelihood of danger/physical harm to self or others as demonstrated by:

- Recent attempt or threat to physically harm self or others OR
- Failure and inability to obtain necessary food, clothing, shelter or medical care
- For full descriptions, refer to MN Statutes 253B