

Order of Protective Custody

There is a new process for holding patients for mental health reasons with concern over danger to themselves or others. Temple police will still appropriately issue orders for emergency detention on individuals they apprehend and bring to us. However, for patients who voluntarily present to our ED or who are inpatients, if needed the order for protective custody will be filed by us through an application for mental health warrant.

1. If a patient needs to be detained from 8-5 M-F, file the application for mental health warrant. The county attorney will have the signed warrant back within 20 minutes. Let DA, Ken Kalafut know it is coming.
2. If a patient needs to be detained after hours or on weekends, file the application for mental health services that is normally filed for an OPC. The county attorney will consider that sufficient to detain the patient until it can be reviewed the next business day.

We have already met with DA Ken Kalafut and TPD and have agreement on the above process. Case management, social work, ED nursing and providers, nursing leadership, and hospitalists are aware.