

HB 1985 -- Comprehensive Psychiatric Services

Sponsor: Stevenson

This bill changes the laws regarding the admission of a person for comprehensive psychiatric services. The probate judge seated in the county where a mental health facility is located is allowed to authorize a mental health professional to serve as the mental health coordinator for the facility. If a voluntary patient at a mental health facility requests to be released, the facility can detain the patient only if a mental health coordinator or a licensed physician signs an affidavit to detain the respondent for evaluation and treatment. If a voluntary patient who is a minor requests to be released, the facility can detain the minor only if a mental health coordinator or a licensed physician completes an affidavit for detention for evaluation and treatment to begin the involuntary detention of the minor. These affidavits must comply with the requirements for involuntary detention under Section 632.305, RSMo. An application for detention for evaluation and treatment must specify the factual information on which the belief is based and must contain the names and addresses of all persons known to the applicant who have knowledge of the facts through personal observation. The application may be filed in the court having probate jurisdiction in any county where the respondent may be found or in the county of the facility where the respondent has been taken for evaluation and treatment.