

MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS STABILIZATION UNIT
(Crisis Triage Unit)

REFERRAL FOR TREATMENT STANDARDS

Authority: Chapter 375, Laws of 2007 (SSB 5533).

Statement of Authority: Section 2 of Chapter 375, Laws of 2007 adds a new section to RCW 10.31. That section, in subpart (2) provides that police officers are to be guided by standards mutually agreed upon with the prosecuting attorney. These standards are the standards mutually agreed upon.

Statement of law: When a police officer has reasonable cause to believe that the individual has committed acts constituting a non-felony crime that is not a serious offense as identified in RCW 10.77.092 and the individual is known by history or consultation with the regional support network to suffer from a mental disorder, the arresting officer MAY take the individual to a crisis stabilization unit and be held up to 12 hours.

In deciding whether to refer the individual to treatment, the officer shall be guided by these standards.

Types of crimes covered: Any non-felony crime EXCEPT the following:

1. Any DV crime;
2. DUI, Physical control, Hit and Run (attended), Reckless driving;
3. Non felony violations of RCW 9.41 (firearms issues) or an equivalent city ordinance;
4. Assault with injuries, stalking, harassment or intimidation that involves threats of harm to person and/or property; and
5. Any sex offense.

Criminal history: The individual may not be referred if they have the following criminal history:

1. There should be no recent history of serious assaultive behavior.

Mental health history: The statute requires consideration of the mental health history of the individual (if known). Due to state and federal privacy laws, this will typically not be known. It will be up to the knowledge and discretion of the officer handling the case. If the officer believes or knows that the individual has a history of mental health issues and the officer believes that the individual would benefit from referral to treatment and otherwise would qualify for this option, it is within the discretion of the officer to so do.

Circumstances surrounding commission of alleged offense: The statute requires consideration of the circumstances surrounding the commission of the alleged offense. Some offenses will appear to be strongly related to instances of mental illness. Such offenses and their relationship to any issues of mental illness will be up to the knowledge and discretion of the officer handling the case.

Yakima County Prosecuting Attorney

City of Yakima Legal Department

Dated: _____

Dated: _____

Yakima County Sheriff

City of Yakima Chief of Police

Dated: _____

Dated: _____

Central Washington Comprehensive Mental Health, CEO

Dated: _____

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