



River Park Hospital

The Mental Hygiene Process

- Any person who reports they want to hurt themselves or someone else during an assessment or if a family member believes this to be true, but declines to stay at River Park Hospital, must go through the mental hygiene process.
- The person assessed will need to stay at River Park Hospital during the mental hygiene process, unless transported by Cabell County Sheriff's department to Pretera to complete the process.
- The family member can complete the mental hygiene application immediately and River Park staff will be available to explain how to fill out the application.
- Once the mental hygiene application is completed River Park staff will notify Pretera Center that they have an application for review.
- Pretera will forward the mental hygiene application to the Mental Hygiene Commissioner who, if there is sufficient evidence that the person is a danger to self or others, will issue a detention order
- If there is not sufficient evidence that the person is a danger to self or others the Mental Hygiene Commissioner will not issue a detention order, the person may then leave River Park Hospital.
- If a detention order is issued, Pretera will contact a psychologist to speak with the person at River Park Hospital to complete the certification.
- If the psychologist feels the person is harmful to self or others they will certify the person.
- Once certification is completed by the psychologist Pretera will notify the Mental Hygiene Commissioner.
- The Mental Hygiene Commissioner and a court appointed lawyer will come to River Park Hospital to conduct a hearing regarding the person's need to be hospitalized.
- Prior to the hearing the lawyer will speak with the person to obtain their side of the issue and why they do not feel they need to be admitted to River Park Hospital.
- Prior to the hearing the lawyer may also offer the person the option to commit to voluntary treatment.
- During the hearing the family member who completed the mental hygiene application may be called on to explain why they believe the person needs hospitalization.
- The Mental Hygiene Commissioner will make a final decision if the person needs to be admitted to River Park Hospital or is safe to go home.
- If the person is to be admitted and is an adult, Pretera will call Mildred Mitchell Hospital for placement.
- If the person is to be admitted and is an adolescent they may be admitted to River Park Hospital.
- If the person is to be transported to a different hospital for treatment the Cabell County Sheriff's department will provide transportation.
- There will be times when the person will need to be taken to Pretera Center to speak with the Psychologist and to participate in the hearing.
- In these cases the Cabell County Sheriff Department will transport the person to Pretera Center.

- Until the Sheriff Department has picked up the person they will need to stay at River Park Hospital.

River Park Hospital
Giving Help, Giving Hope
1-800-621-COPE