

Policy Title: Criteria For Admission to East Mississippi State Hospital, Mississippi State Hospital, North Mississippi State Hospital and South Mississippi State Hospital.

Scope: East Mississippi State Hospital, Mississippi State Hospital, North Mississippi State Hospital and South Mississippi State Hospital shall follow the established criteria for admission when considering a person for admission to each facility.

Policy: It shall be the policy of the Department of Mental Health to follow the regulations established pursuant to Section 41-21-63 et seq., and 41-31-1 et seq., and other relevant statutes when considering a person for admission to East Mississippi State Hospital, Mississippi State Hospital, North Mississippi State Hospital and South Mississippi State Hospital.

Procedure: Consideration for admission to East Mississippi State Hospital, Mississippi State Hospital, North Mississippi State Hospital and South Mississippi State Hospital shall follow the following criteria:

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I. CATCHMENT AREAS.

- A. Individuals against whom criminal charges are pending, for whom a psychiatric examination has been ordered by the court having jurisdiction over those charges shall be admitted only to Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield.
- B. Individuals between the ages of twelve years and seventeen years eleven months shall be admitted for psychiatric treatment at East Mississippi State Hospital and Mississippi State Hospital and treatment of chemical dependence only to East Mississippi State Hospital. Children between the ages of four years and 11 years 11 months shall be admitted only to Mississippi State Hospital.
- C. Adult women shall be admitted for the treatment of chemical dependence only to Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield.
- D. Adult women shall be admitted for psychiatric care to East Mississippi State Hospital, Mississippi State Hospital and North Mississippi State Hospital.
- E. All admissions shall be according to regional catchment areas defined below and illustrated in Appendix A of these regulations, except in extraordinary circumstances as approved by the Executive Director or the Chief of Bureau of Mental Health:

1. Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield: Mental Health Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, and 15.
2. East Mississippi State Hospital at Meridian: Mental Health Regions 4, 7, 10, 12, and 14.

II. ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT CENTERS.
Separate facilities are available for the treatment of alcohol and drug dependence at both East Mississippi State Hospital and Mississippi State Hospital. Admission may be sought voluntarily or as provided in Sections 41-31-1 et seq. of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended. However, no person will be admitted to psychiatric service wards at either hospital pending the availability of bed space in the alcohol and drug unit. Individuals eligible for admission for whom no bed is available shall be placed on a waiting list as provided below.

A small number of beds are available at each hospital for emergency admissions. An adjudication of emergency pursuant to Section 41-30-27 of the Mississippi Code is required, and admissions may not exceed the number of available beds at each facility. Such admission shall not be made without the certificate of two (2) physicians as required by law.

III. NURSING HOME FACILITIES.

Nursing home facilities are available at East Mississippi State Hospital and Mississippi State Hospital which are licensed and certified to participate in Medicaid and Medicare. Admissions may not exceed rated capacity. Intensive psychiatric services are not available. The standard of dangerousness required for judicial commitment renders nursing home placement pursuant to court order inappropriate. Individuals eligible for admission may be placed on a waiting list as provided below.

IV. APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION.

- A. Applications for voluntary admission to all facilities will be accepted from the following:
1. Persons over eighteen (18) years of age, or married persons, who have not been adjudicated incompetent;
 2. Legal guardians or conservators of persons over eighteen (18) years of age, or under the age of fourteen (14); and
 3. Parents of individuals under the age of fourteen (14).
- B. No application for voluntary admission will be accepted from or on behalf of an individual fourteen (14) years of age or older, but younger than age

eighteen (18).

- C. A court order as provided in Sections 41-21-61 et seq., 41-30-1, 41-31-1, 43-21-611, or 43-21-315 et seq. shall be required for involuntary admissions.
- D. Such application or court order shall be accompanied by the report of two (2) physicians, or of one (1) physician and a licensed psychologist of their thorough physical and mental examination and shall list all physical and mental problems. Eligibility for admission cannot be determined without this report.

V. PLACEMENT.

- A. Priority shall be given to court orders of admission. Admissions to any service at each hospital are limited by the official bed capacity. Individuals eligible for admission for whom space is not available shall be placed on waiting lists as described below.
- B. State law requires that judicial commitment be based on a finding that an individual has a substantial psychiatric disorder manifested by grossly disturbed behavior or faulty perceptions; and that the individual poses a substantial likelihood of physical harm to himself or others. Involuntary

commitment is therefore not appropriate for individuals whose primary problems are:

1. Uncomplicated dementia;
 2. Character disorder such as antisocial personality;
 3. Neurological and who are non- psychotic;
 4. Seriously physically ill and who do not need intensive psychiatric treatment;
 5. Appropriate for nursing home placement and who do not need intensive psychiatric treatment, e.g., elderly patients with organic brain syndrome; and
 6. Mental retardation without psychosis.
- C. If necessary medical or psychiatric information is not available, placement may be deferred.
- D. Waiting lists will be maintained by sex and date of application or court order for admission. Persons determined eligible for admission will be placed on a waiting list if bed space is not available when the determination of eligibility is made. Separate waiting lists will be maintained for

psychiatric services, alcohol and drug treatment at both hospitals and forensic services. Applicants, or the committing court, shall be notified of placement on a waiting list. Court commitments shall take precedence over voluntary admissions.

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