

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 564*

Short Title: Revise IVC Laws to Improve Behavioral Health. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Dobson, S. Martin, Lambeth, and Malone (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Health

April 6, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT REVISING THE LAWS PERTAINING TO INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT IN
3 ORDER TO IMPROVE THE DELIVERY OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES IN
4 NORTH CAROLINA.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 122C-3 reads as rewritten:

7 "§ 122C-3. Definitions.

8 The following definitions apply in this Chapter:

9 ...

10 (8a) "Commitment examiner" means a physician, an eligible psychologist, or any
11 health professional or mental health professional who is certified under
12 G.S. 122C-263.1 to perform the first examination for involuntary
13 commitment described in G.S. 122C-263(c) or G.S. 122C-283(c) as required
14 by Parts 7 and 8 of this Article.

15 ...

16 (16a) "Incapable" with respect to an individual means in the opinion of a physician
17 or eligible psychologist, the individual currently lacks sufficient
18 understanding or capacity to make and communicate mental health treatment
19 decisions. An adult individual who is incapable is not the same as an
20 incompetent adult unless the adult individual has been adjudicated
21 incompetent under Chapter 35A of the General Statutes.

22 (17) "Incompetent adult" means an adult individual who has been adjudicated
23 ~~incompetent~~ incompetent under Chapter 35A of the General Statutes.

24 ...

25 (20) "Legally responsible person" means: (i) when applied to an adult, who has
26 been adjudicated incompetent, a guardian; (ii) when applied to a minor, a
27 parent, guardian, a person standing in loco parentis, or a legal custodian
28 other than a parent who has been granted specific authority by law or in a
29 custody order to consent for medical care, including psychiatric treatment; or
30 (iii) when applied to an adult who is incapable as defined in G.S. 122C-72(c)
31 and who has not been adjudicated incompetent, a health care agent named
32 pursuant to a valid health care power of ~~attorney~~ attorney; provided,
33 however, that if an incapable adult does not have a health care agent or
34 guardian, "legally responsible person" means one of the persons specified in



subdivisions (3) through (7) of subsection (c) of G.S. 90-21.13, to be selected based on the priority indicated in said subdivisions (3) through (7).

...
 (20b) "Local management entity" or "LME" means an ~~area authority, county program, or consolidated human services agency. It is a collective term that refers to functional responsibilities rather than governance structure.~~ area authority.

...
 (27a) "Outpatient treatment physician or center" as used in Part 7 of Article 5 of this Chapter means a physician or center that provides treatment services directly to the outpatient commitment respondent. An LME/MCO that contracts with an outpatient treatment physician or center to provide outpatient treatment services to a respondent is not an outpatient treatment physician or center. Every LME/MCO is responsible for contracting with qualified providers of services in accordance with G.S. 122C-141, 122C-142(a), 122C-115.2(b)(1)b., and 122C-115.4(b)(2) to ensure the availability of qualified providers of outpatient commitment services to clients of LME/MCOs who are respondents to outpatient commitment proceedings and meet the criteria for outpatient commitment. An LME/MCO provider shall not be designated as an outpatient treatment physician or center on an outpatient commitment order unless the respondent is a client of an LME/MCO or is eligible for services through an LME/MCO, or the respondent otherwise qualifies for the provision of services offered by the provider.

...
 (29a) ~~"Program director" means the director of a county program established pursuant to G.S. 122C-115.1.~~

...."

SECTION 2. G.S. 122C-4 reads as rewritten:

"§ 122C-4. Use of phrase "client or ~~his~~ the legally responsible person."

(a) Except as otherwise provided by law, whenever in this Chapter the phrase "client or ~~his~~ the legally responsible person" is used, and the client is a minor or an incompetent adult, the duty or right involved shall be exercised not by the client, but by the legally responsible person.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by law, whenever in this Chapter the phrase "client or the legally responsible person" is used, and the client is an incapable adult who has not been adjudicated incompetent under Chapter 35A of the General Statutes, the duty or right involved shall be exercised not by the client but by a health care agent named pursuant to a valid health care power of attorney, if one exists, or by the client as expressed in a valid advance instruction for mental health treatment, if one exists. If no health care power of attorney or advance instruction for mental health treatment exists, the legally responsible person for an incapable adult who has not been adjudicated incompetent under Chapter 35A of the General Statutes shall be one of the persons listed in subdivisions (3) through (7) of subsection (c) of G.S. 90-21.13, to be selected based on the priority order indicated in said subdivisions (3) through (7)."

SECTION 3. G.S. 122C-53 reads as rewritten:

"§ 122C-53. Exceptions; client.

(a) A facility may disclose confidential information if the client or ~~his~~ the legally responsible person consents in writing to the release of the information to a specified person. This release is valid for a specified length of time and is subject to revocation by the consenting individual.

1 (b) A facility may disclose (i) the fact of admission or discharge of a client and (ii) the
2 time and location of the admission or discharge to the client's next of kin whenever the
3 responsible professional determines that the disclosure is in the best interest of the client.

4 (c) Upon request a client shall have access to confidential information in ~~his client the~~
5 client's record except information that would be injurious to the client's physical or mental
6 well-being as determined by the attending physician or, if there is none, by the facility director
7 or ~~his the facility director's~~ designee. If the attending physician or, if there is none, the facility
8 director or ~~his the facility director's~~ designee has refused to provide confidential information to
9 a client, the client may request that the information be sent to a physician or psychologist of the
10 client's choice, and in this event the information shall be so provided.

11 (d) Except as provided by G.S. 90-21.4(b), upon request the legally responsible person
12 of a client shall have access to confidential information in the client's record; except
13 information that would be injurious to the client's physical or mental well-being as determined
14 by the attending physician or, if there is none, by the facility director or ~~his the facility~~
15 director's designee. If the attending physician or, if there is none, the facility director or ~~his the~~
16 facility director's designee has refused to provide confidential information to the legally
17 responsible person, the legally responsible person may request that the information be sent to a
18 physician or psychologist of the legally responsible person's choice, and in this event the
19 information shall be so provided.

20 (e) A client advocate's access to confidential information and ~~his the client's~~
21 responsibility for safeguarding this information are as provided by subsection (g) of this
22 section.

23 (f) As used in subsection (g) of this section, the following terms have the meanings
24 specified:

25 (1) "Internal client advocate" means a client advocate who is employed by the
26 facility or has a written contractual agreement with the Department or with
27 the facility to provide monitoring and advocacy services to clients in the
28 facility in which the client is receiving ~~services; and~~ services.

29 (2) "External client advocate" means a client advocate acting on behalf of a
30 particular client with the written consent and ~~authorization; authorization~~
31 under either of the following circumstances:

32 a. In the case of a client who is an adult and who has not been
33 adjudicated incompetent under Chapter 35A or former Chapters 33
34 or 35 of the General Statutes, of the ~~client; or~~ client.

35 b. In the case of any other client, of the client and ~~his the~~ legally
36 responsible person.

37 (g) An internal client advocate shall be granted, without the consent of the client or ~~his~~
38 the legally responsible person, access to routine reports and other confidential information
39 necessary to fulfill ~~his~~ monitoring and advocacy functions. In this role, the internal client
40 advocate may disclose confidential information received to the client involved, to his or her
41 legally responsible person, to the director of the facility or ~~his the director's~~ designee, to other
42 individuals within the facility who are involved in the treatment or habilitation of the client, or
43 to the Secretary in accordance with the rules of the Commission. Any further disclosure shall
44 require the written consent of the client and ~~his the~~ legally responsible person. An external
45 client advocate shall have access to confidential information only upon the written consent of
46 the client and ~~his the~~ legally responsible person. In this role, the external client advocate may
47 use the information only as authorized by the client and ~~his the~~ legally responsible person.

48 (h) In accordance with G.S. 122C-205, the facility shall notify the appropriate
49 individuals upon the escape from and subsequent return of clients to a 24-hour facility.

50 (i) Upon the request of (i) a client who is an adult and who has not been adjudicated
51 incompetent under Chapter 35A or former Chapters 33 or 35 of the General Statutes, or (ii) the

1 legally responsible person for any other client, a facility shall disclose to an attorney
2 confidential information relating to that client."

3 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 122C-54 reads as rewritten:

4 "**§ 122C-54. Exceptions; abuse reports and court proceedings.**

5 ...

6 (a1) Upon a determination by the facility director or ~~his~~the facility director's designee
7 that disclosure is in the best interests of the client, a facility may disclose confidential
8 information for purposes of filing a petition for involuntary commitment of a client pursuant to
9 Article 5 of this Chapter or for purposes of filing a petition for the adjudication of
10 incompetency of the client and the appointment of a guardian or an interim guardian under
11 Chapter 35A of the General Statutes.

12 ...

13 (c) Certified copies of written results of examinations by physicians and other medical
14 and court records in the cases of clients voluntarily admitted or involuntarily committed and
15 facing district court hearings and rehearings pursuant to Article 5 of this Chapter shall be
16 furnished by the facility to the client's counsel, the attorney representing the State's interest, and
17 the court. Notwithstanding the confidentiality of these records, the client's counsel shall have
18 access to any medical and court records the client's counsel deems relevant to the court
19 proceeding and shall not be required to obtain the client's consent in order to access these
20 records. The confidentiality of client information shall be preserved in all matters except those
21 pertaining to the necessity for admission or continued stay in the facility or commitment under
22 review. ~~The relevance of confidential information for which disclosure is sought in a particular~~
23 ~~ease shall be determined by the court with jurisdiction over the matter.~~

24 (d) Any individual seeking confidential information contained in the court files or the
25 court records of a proceeding made pursuant to Article 5 of this ~~Chapter~~Chapter, except for the
26 respondent, may file a written motion in the cause setting out why the information is needed. A
27 district court judge may issue an order to disclose the confidential information sought if ~~he~~the
28 judge finds (i) the order is appropriate under the circumstances and if he finds that(ii) it is in the
29 best interest of the individual admitted or committed or of the public to have the information
30 disclosed. An individual who is or has been a respondent in a proceeding pursuant to Article 5
31 of this Chapter shall be provided the court records of the proceeding upon submitting a written
32 request to the clerk of superior court in the county in which the proceeding is pending. The
33 clerk of court shall take reasonable and appropriate measures to verify the identity of the
34 individual making the request. The respondent's legally responsible person shall exercise the
35 respondent's right to access the court records if the respondent is a minor or an incompetent
36 adult at the time of the request.

37 ...

38 (e) Upon the request of the legally responsible person or the minor admitted or
39 committed, and after that minor has both been released and reached adulthood, the court
40 records of that minor made in proceedings pursuant to Article 5 of this Chapter may be
41 expunged from the files of the court. The minor and ~~his~~the minor's legally responsible person
42 shall be informed in writing by the court of the right provided by this subsection at the time that
43 the application for admission is filed with the court.

44 ...

45 (g) A facility may disclose confidential information to an attorney who represents either
46 the facility or an employee of the facility, if such information is relevant to litigation, to the
47 operations of the facility, or to the provision of services by the facility. An employee may
48 discuss confidential information with ~~his~~the employee's attorney or with an attorney
49 representing the facility in which ~~he~~the employee is employed.

50"

51 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 122C-55 reads as rewritten:

1 **"§ 122C-55. Exceptions; care and treatment.**

2 (a) Any facility may share confidential information regarding any client of that facility
3 with any other facility when necessary to coordinate appropriate and effective care, treatment
4 or habilitation of the client. For the purposes of this section, ~~coordinate~~ the following
5 definitions apply:

6 (1) "Coordinate" means the provision, coordination, or management of mental
7 health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services and other
8 health or related services by one or more facilities and includes the referral
9 of a client from one facility to another.

10 (2) "Facility" and "area facility" include an area authority.

11 (3) "Secretary" includes the Community Care of North Carolina Program, or
12 other primary care case management programs that contract with the
13 Department to provide a primary care case management program for
14 recipients of publicly funded health and related services.

15 (a1) Any facility may share confidential information regarding any client of that facility
16 with the Secretary, and the Secretary may share confidential information regarding any client
17 with a facility when necessary to conduct quality assessment and improvement activities or to
18 coordinate appropriate and effective care, treatment or habilitation of the client. For purposes of
19 this subsection, subsection (a6), and subsection (a7) of this section, the purposes or activities
20 for which confidential information may be disclosed include, but are not limited to, case
21 management and care coordination, disease management, outcomes evaluation, the
22 development of clinical guidelines and protocols, the development of care management plans
23 and systems, population-based activities relating to improving or reducing health care costs,
24 and the provision, coordination, or management of mental health, developmental disabilities,
25 and substance abuse services and other health or related services. ~~As used in this section,~~
26 ~~"facility" includes an LME and "Secretary" includes the Community Care of North Carolina~~
27 ~~Program, or other primary care case management programs that contract with the Department~~
28 ~~to provide a primary care case management program for recipients of publicly funded health~~
29 ~~and related services.~~

30"

31 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 122C-115.4(b) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

32 "(7a) Community crisis services planning in accordance with G.S. 122C-202.2."

33 **SECTION 7.** G.S. 122C-117(a)(14) reads as rewritten:

34 "(14) Maintain a 24-hour a day, seven day a week crisis response service.
35 service and adopt a community crisis services plan in accordance with
36 G.S. 122C-202.2. Crisis response shall include telephone and face-to-face
37 capabilities. Crisis phone response shall include triage and referral to
38 appropriate face-to-face crisis providers and shall be initiated within one
39 hour of notification. Crisis services do not require prior authorization but
40 shall be delivered in compliance with appropriate policies and procedures.
41 Crisis services shall be designed for prevention, intervention, and resolution,
42 not merely triage and transfer, and shall be provided in the least restrictive
43 setting possible, consistent with individual and family need and community
44 safety."

45 **SECTION 8.** Part 1 of Article 5 of Chapter 122C of the General Statutes is
46 amended by adding a new section to read:

47 **"§ 122C-202.2. LME/MCO community crisis services plan; commitment examiners;**
48 **transporting agencies; training; collaboration.**

49 (a) Every LME/MCO shall adopt a community crisis services plan developed in
50 accordance with this section to facilitate the implementation of Parts 7 and 8 of this Article
51 within its catchment area. The community crisis services plan for the LME/MCO's catchment

1 area shall be comprised of separate plans, known as "local area crisis services plans" or "local
2 plans," for each of the local areas or regions within the catchment area that the LME/MCO
3 identifies as an appropriate local planning area, taking into consideration the available
4 resources and interested stakeholders within a particular geographic area or region of the
5 catchment area. Each LME/MCO may determine the number and geographic boundaries of the
6 local planning areas within its catchment area. Each local area crisis services plan shall, for the
7 local area covered by the local plan, do at least all of the following:

8 (1) Identify one or more area facilities where a respondent subject to a
9 transportation and custody order must be taken for a first examination by a
10 commitment examiner as required by G.S. 122C-263(a) and
11 G.S. 122C-283(a). If an area facility is identified in the plan as an
12 appropriate facility for conducting the first examination for commitment,
13 law enforcement officers, and any persons designated to provide
14 transportation and custody under G.S. 122C-251(g), shall transport the
15 commitment respondent to the area facility in accordance with, and under
16 circumstances addressed in, the local area crisis services plan. If no area
17 facility is available in the local planning area to conduct the first
18 examination for commitment, the local plan shall identify an acute care
19 hospital or hospitals or other location for first examination. This subdivision
20 applies when a magistrate or clerk of court orders a respondent to be taken
21 into custody for examination by a commitment examiner. This subdivision
22 does not apply when the respondent is already present on the premises of a
23 location and the first examiner at that location is the affiant who is
24 petitioning to initiate the commitment process.

25 (2) Identify any persons that the LME/MCO has designated under
26 G.S. 122C-251(g) to be responsible for all or part of the transportation and
27 custody of respondents in involuntary commitment proceedings under this
28 Article, to the extent that the LME/MCO has exercised its authority under
29 G.S. 122C-251(g). Any plan adopted by an LME/MCO under
30 G.S. 122C-251(g) shall be included as a part of the local area crisis services
31 plan for the area to which it pertains. Counties and cities shall retain the
32 responsibilities for custody and transportation set forth in this Article except
33 as otherwise set forth in a plan developed and adopted pursuant
34 G.S. 122C-251(g).

35 (3) Identify appropriate and available training for law enforcement personnel,
36 and any persons designated under G.S. 122C-251(g), who provide
37 transportation and custody of involuntary commitment respondents. To the
38 extent feasible, law enforcement officers shall participate in the training
39 program identified by the LME/MCO. Persons who are designated under
40 G.S. 122C-251(g) to provide all or part of the transportation and custody
41 required for involuntary commitment proceedings under this Article and
42 who are not law enforcement officers shall participate in the training. To the
43 extent feasible, the identified training shall address the use of de-escalation
44 strategies and techniques, the safe use of force and restraint, respondent
45 rights relevant to custody and transportation, the location of any area
46 facilities identified by the LME/MCO pursuant to subdivision (1) of this
47 subsection, and the completion and return of the custody order to the clerk of
48 superior court. The training identified by the LME/MCO may be comprised
49 of one or more programs, and may include a crisis intervention team
50 program or other mental health training program or a combination of these
51 programs. To the extent feasible, the LME/MCO shall identify training that

1 includes a component for dialogue with consumers of mental health,
2 developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services.

3 (b) Law enforcement agencies, acute care hospitals, magistrates or clerks of court, area
4 facilities with identified commitment examiners, the LME/MCO, and other relevant community
5 partners or stakeholders shall participate in the development of the local area crisis services
6 plans described in this section.

7 (c) The plans adopted under this section may address any matters necessary to facilitate
8 the custody, transportation, examination, and treatment of respondents to commitment
9 proceedings under Parts 7 and 8 of this Article."

10 **SECTION 9.** G.S. 122C-206 reads as rewritten:

11 "**§ 122C-206. Transfers of clients between 24-hour facilities; ~~facilities~~; transfer of clients**
12 **from 24-hour facilities to acute care hospitals.**

13 (a) Before transferring a voluntary adult client from one 24-hour facility to another, the
14 responsible professional at the original facility shall: (i) get authorization from the receiving
15 facility that the facility will admit the client; (ii) get consent from the client; and (iii) if consent
16 to share information is granted by the ~~client,~~ client or if disclosure of the information is
17 permitted under G.S. 122C-53(b), notify the next of kin of the time and location of the transfer.
18 The preceding requirements of this paragraph may be waived if the client has been admitted
19 under emergency procedures to a State facility not serving the client's region of the State.
20 Following an emergency admission, the client may be transferred to the appropriate State
21 facility without consent according to the rules of the Commission.

22 (b) Before transferring a respondent held for a district court hearing or a committed
23 respondent from one 24-hour facility to another, the responsible professional at the original
24 facility shall:

- 25 (1) Obtain authorization from the receiving facility that the facility will admit
26 the respondent; and
27 (2) Provide reasonable notice to the ~~respondent, or~~ respondent or the legally
28 responsible person, and to the respondent's counsel, of the reason for the
29 transfer and document the notice in the client's record.

30 No later ~~that~~ than 24 hours after the transfer, the responsible professional at the original
31 facility shall notify the petitioner, the clerk of court, the respondent's counsel, and, if consent is
32 granted by the ~~respondent,~~ respondent or disclosure of the information is permitted under
33 G.S. 122C-53(b), the next of kin, that the transfer is ~~completed~~ complete. If the transfer is
34 completed before the judicial commitment hearing, these proceedings shall be initiated by the
35 receiving facility. If the respondent is a minor, an incompetent adult, or an individual with a
36 health care power of attorney who is deemed incapable, then the responsible professional at the
37 original facility shall, not later than 24 hours after the transfer, notify the client's legally
38 responsible person of the location of the transfer and that the transfer is complete.

39 (c) Minors and incompetent adults, admitted pursuant to Parts 3 and 4 of this Article,
40 may be transferred from one 24-hour facility to another following the same procedures
41 specified in subsection (b) of this section. In addition, the legally responsible person shall be
42 consulted before the proposed ~~transfer~~ transfer and notified, within 24 hours after the transfer is
43 complete, of the location of the transfer and that the transfer is complete. If the transfer is
44 completed before the judicial determination required in G.S. 122C-223 or G.S. 122C-232, these
45 proceedings shall be initiated by the receiving facility.

46 (c1) If a client described in subsections (b) or (c) of this section is to be transferred from
47 one 24-hour facility to ~~another~~ another, or to an acute care hospital pursuant to subsection (e) of
48 this section, and transportation is needed, the responsible professional at the original facility
49 shall notify the clerk of court or magistrate, and the clerk of court or magistrate shall issue a
50 custody order for transportation of the client as provided by G.S. 122C-251.

1 (d) Minors and incompetent adults, admitted pursuant to Part 5 of this Article and
2 incapable adults admitted pursuant to Part 2A of this Article, may be transferred from one
3 24-hour facility to another provided that prior to transfer the responsible professional at the
4 original facility shall:

- 5 (1) Obtain authorization from the receiving facility that the facility will admit
6 the client; and
7 (2) Provide reasonable notice to the client regarding the reason for transfer and
8 document the notice in the client's record; and
9 (3) Provide reasonable notice to and consult with the legally responsible person
10 regarding the reason for the transfer and document the notice and
11 consultation in the client's record.

12 No later than 24 hours after the transfer, the responsible professional at the original facility
13 shall notify the legally responsible person that the transfer is completed.

14 (e) The responsible professional may transfer a client from one 24-hour facility to
15 another or to an acute care hospital for emergency medical treatment, emergency medical
16 evaluation, or emergency surgery without notice to or consent from the client. Within a
17 reasonable period of time the responsible professional shall notify the next of kin or the legally
18 responsible person of the client of the time and location of the transfer.

19 (f) When a client is transferred from one 24-hour facility to another ~~facility~~ solely for
20 medical reasons, the client shall be returned to the original facility when the medical care is
21 completed unless the responsible professionals at both facilities concur that discharge of the
22 client who is not subject to G.S. 122C-266(b) is appropriate.

23 (f1) When a client is transferred from a 24-hour facility to an acute care hospital solely
24 for medical reasons, the hospital shall return the client to the original facility as soon as the next
25 client space becomes available at the original facility after completion of the client's medical
26 care, and the original facility must accept the return of the client; provided, however, that if the
27 responsible professionals at both facilities concur that discharge of a client who is not subject to
28 G.S. 122C-266(b) is appropriate, the client shall be released. If, at the time of the transfer, a
29 client is being held under a custody order pending a second commitment examination or a
30 district court hearing under involuntary commitment proceedings, the custody order shall
31 remain valid throughout the period of time necessary to complete the client's medical care and
32 transport the client between the 24-hour facility and the acute care hospital; provided, however,
33 that the requirement for a timely hearing under G.S. 122C-268(a) applies. Any decision to
34 terminate the proceedings because the respondent no longer meets the criteria for commitment
35 or because a hearing cannot be held within the time required by G.S. 122C-268(a) shall be
36 documented and reported to the clerk of superior court in accordance with G.S. 122C-266(c).

37 (g) The Commission may adopt rules to implement this section."

38 **SECTION 10.** G.S. 122C-210.1 reads as rewritten:

39 "**§ 122C-210.1. Immunity from liability.**

40 No ~~facility~~ facility, including an area facility, a facility licensed under this Chapter, an acute
41 care hospital, a general hospital, or an area authority, LME, or LME/MCO, or any of its
42 officials, staff, or employees, or any physician or other individual who is responsible for the
43 custody, transportation, examination, management, supervision, treatment, or release of a client
44 and who follows accepted professional judgment, practice, and standards takes reasonable
45 measures in good faith under the authority of this Article and is not grossly negligent is civilly
46 or criminally liable, personally or otherwise, for actions arising from these responsibilities or
47 for actions of the client. This immunity is in addition to any other legal immunity from liability
48 to which these ~~facilities~~ facilities, agencies, or individuals may be entitled and applies to
49 actions performed in connection with, or arising out of, the ~~admission-custody, transportation,~~
50 examination, admission, or commitment of any individual pursuant to this Article."

51 **SECTION 11.** G.S. 122C-210.3 reads as rewritten:

1 **"§ 122C-210.3. Electronic and facsimile transmission of custody orders.**

2 A custody order entered by the clerk or magistrate pursuant to this Chapter may be
3 delivered to the law enforcement officer or other person designated under G.S. 122C-251(g) by
4 electronic or facsimile transmission."

5 **SECTION 12.** G.S. 122C-211 reads as rewritten:

6 **"§ 122C-211. Admissions.**

7 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) through (f1) of this section, any individual,
8 including a parent in a family unit, in need of treatment for mental illness or substance abuse
9 may seek voluntary admission at any facility by presenting himself or herself for evaluation to
10 the facility. No physician's statement is necessary, but a written application for evaluation or
11 admission, signed by the individual seeking ~~admission,~~ admission or the individual's legally
12 responsible person, is required. The application form shall be available at all times at all
13 facilities. However, no one shall be denied admission because application forms are not
14 available. An evaluation shall determine whether the individual is in need of care, treatment,
15 habilitation or rehabilitation for mental illness or substance abuse or further evaluation by the
16 facility. Information provided by family members regarding the individual's need for treatment
17 shall be reviewed in the evaluation. If applicable, information provided in an advance
18 instruction for mental health treatment by the client or the client's legally responsible person
19 shall be reviewed in the evaluation. An individual may not be accepted as a client if the facility
20 determines that the individual does not need or cannot benefit from the care, treatment,
21 habilitation, or rehabilitation available and that the individual is not in need of further
22 evaluation by the facility. The facility shall give to an individual who is denied admission a
23 referral to another facility or facilities that may be able to provide the treatment needed by the
24 client.

25 (b) In 24-hour facilities the application shall acknowledge that the applicant may be
26 held by the facility for a period of 72 hours after any written request for release that the
27 applicant may make, and shall acknowledge that the 24-hour facility may have the legal right to
28 petition for involuntary commitment of the applicant during that period. At the time of
29 application, the facility shall tell the applicant about procedures for discharge.

30 (c) Any individual who voluntarily seeks admission to a 24-hour facility in which
31 medical care is an integral component of the treatment shall be examined and evaluated by a
32 physician of the facility within 24 hours of admission. The evaluation shall determine whether
33 the individual is in need of treatment for mental illness or substance abuse or further evaluation
34 by the facility. If the evaluating physician determines that the individual will not benefit from
35 the treatment available, the individual shall not be accepted as a client.

36 (d) Any individual who voluntarily seeks admission to any 24-hour facility, other than
37 one in which medical care is an integral component of the treatment, shall have a medical
38 examination within 30 days before or after admission if it is reasonably expected that the
39 individual will receive treatment for more than 30 days or shall produce a current, valid
40 physical examination report, signed by a physician, completed within 12 months prior to the
41 current admission. When applicable, this examination may be included in an examination
42 conducted to meet the requirements of G.S. 122C-223 or G.S. 122C-232.

43 ~~(e) When an individual from a single portal area seeks admission to an area or State~~
44 ~~24-hour facility, the admission shall follow the procedures as prescribed in the area plan. When~~
45 ~~an individual from a single portal area presents himself for admission to the facility directly and~~
46 ~~is in need of an emergency admission, the individual may be accepted for admission. The~~
47 ~~facility shall notify the area authority within 24 hours of the admission. Further planning of~~
48 ~~treatment for the client is the joint responsibility of the area authority and the facility as~~
49 ~~prescribed in the area plan.~~

50 (f) A family unit may voluntarily seek admission to a 24-hour substance abuse facility
51 that is able to provide, directly or by contract, treatment, habilitation, or rehabilitation services

1 that will specifically address the family unit's needs. These services shall include
2 gender-specific substance abuse treatment, habilitation, or rehabilitation for the parent as well
3 as assessment, well-child care, and, as needed, early intervention services for the child. A
4 family unit that voluntarily seeks admission to a 24-hour substance abuse facility shall be
5 evaluated by the facility to determine whether the family unit would benefit from the services
6 of the facility. A facility shall not accept a family unit as a client if the facility determines that
7 the family unit does not need or cannot benefit from the care, habilitation, or rehabilitation
8 available at the facility. The facility shall give to a family unit that is denied admission a
9 referral to another facility or facilities that may be able to provide treatment needed by the
10 family unit. Except as otherwise provided, this section applies to a parent in a family unit
11 seeking admission under this section.

12 ~~(f1) An individual in need of treatment for mental illness may be admitted to a facility~~
13 ~~pursuant to an advance instruction for mental health treatment or pursuant to the authority of a~~
14 ~~health care agent named in a valid health care power of attorney, provided that the individual is~~
15 ~~incapable, as defined in G.S. 122C-72(4) at the time of the need for admission. An individual~~
16 ~~admitted to a facility pursuant to an advance instruction for mental health treatment may not be~~
17 ~~retained for more than 10 days, except as provided for in subsection (b) of this section. When a~~
18 ~~health care power of attorney authorizes a health care agent to seek the admission of an~~
19 ~~incapable individual, the health care agent shall act for the individual in applying for admission~~
20 ~~to a facility and in consenting to medical treatment at the facility when consent is required,~~
21 ~~provided that the individual is incapable.~~

22 (g) As used in this Part, the term "family unit" means a parent and the parent's
23 dependent children under the age of three years."

24 **SECTION 13.** G.S. 122C-212 reads as rewritten:

25 **"§ 122C-212. Discharges.**

26 (a) Except as provided in ~~subsections~~ subsection (b) and (e) of this section, an
27 individual who has been voluntarily admitted to a facility shall be discharged upon his or her
28 own request. A request for discharge from a 24-hour facility shall be in writing.

29 (b) An individual who has been voluntarily admitted to a 24-hour facility may be held
30 for 72 hours after his or her written application for discharge is submitted.

31 ~~(c) When an individual from a single portal area who has been voluntarily admitted to~~
32 ~~an area or State 24-hour facility is discharged, the discharge shall follow the procedures as~~
33 ~~prescribed in the area plan."~~

34 **SECTION 14.** Article 5 of Chapter 122C of the General Statutes is amended by
35 adding a new Part to read:

36 "Part 2A. Voluntary Admissions and Discharges; Incapable Adults; Facilities for Individuals
37 With Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorder.

38 **"§ 122C-213. Voluntary admission of individuals determined to be incapable.**

39 (a) An individual in need of treatment for mental illness and who is incapable, as
40 defined in G.S. 122C-3 and G.S. 122C-72, may be admitted to and treated in a facility pursuant
41 to an advance instruction for mental health treatment executed in accordance with Part 2 of
42 Article 3 of this Chapter or pursuant to the authority of a health care agent named in a valid
43 health care power of attorney executed in accordance with Article 3 of Chapter 32A of the
44 General Statutes.

45 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this Part, G.S. 122C-211 applies to admissions of
46 incapable adults under this Part.

47 (c) An individual making an advance instruction for mental health treatment may grant
48 or withhold consent for mental health treatment, including the use of psychotropic medication,
49 electroconvulsive treatment, and admission to and retention in a 24-hour facility for mental
50 illness. An attending physician or other mental health treatment provider shall act in accordance
51 with an advance instruction for mental health treatment upon a determination that the

1 individual making the advance instruction is incapable, in which case, the provisions of Part 2
2 of Article 3 of this Chapter apply.

3 (d) When a health care power of attorney authorizes a health care agent pursuant to
4 G.S. 32A-19 to make mental health treatment decisions for an incapable individual, the health
5 care agent shall act for the individual in applying for admission and consenting to treatment at a
6 facility, consistent with the extent and limitations of authority granted in the health care power
7 of attorney for as long as the individual remains incapable.

8 (e) A 24-hour facility may not hold an individual who is determined to be incapable at
9 the time of admission and who is admitted pursuant to an advance instruction for mental health
10 treatment for more than 15 days, except as provided in G.S. 122C-211(b); provided, however,
11 that an individual who regains sufficient understanding and capacity to make and communicate
12 mental health treatment decisions may elect to continue his or her admission and treatment
13 pursuant to the individual's informed consent in accordance with G.S. 122C-211.

14 **"§ 122C-214. Discharge of individuals determined to be incapable.**

15 (a) The responsible professional shall unconditionally discharge an individual admitted
16 to a facility pursuant to this Part at any time it is determined that the individual is no longer
17 mentally ill or in need of treatment at the facility.

18 (b) An individual who has been voluntarily admitted to a facility pursuant to this Part
19 and who is no longer deemed incapable shall be discharged upon his or her own request. An
20 individual's request for discharge from a 24-hour facility shall be in writing. A facility may
21 hold an individual who has been voluntarily admitted to a 24-hour facility pursuant to this Part
22 for up to 72 hours after the individual submits a written request for discharge, but the facility
23 shall release the individual upon the expiration of 72 hours following submission of the written
24 request for discharge unless the responsible professional obtains an order under Part 7 or 8 of
25 this Article to hold the client.

26 (c) A health care agent named in a valid health care power of attorney may submit on
27 behalf of an individual admitted to a facility under this Part a written request to have the
28 individual discharged from the facility, provided (i) the individual remains incapable at the time
29 of the request and (ii) the request is consistent with the authority expressed in the health care
30 power of attorney. A facility may hold an individual for up to 72 hours after a health care agent
31 submits a written request for the individual's discharge but shall release the individual upon the
32 expiration of 72 hours following submission of the written request for discharge unless the
33 responsible professional obtains an order under Part 7 or 8 of this Article to hold the client.

34 (d) If, in the opinion of a physician or eligible psychologist, an individual admitted to a
35 facility under this Part regains sufficient understanding and capacity to make and communicate
36 mental health treatment decisions while in treatment, and the individual refuses to sign an
37 authorization for continued treatment within 72 hours after regaining decisional capacity, the
38 facility shall discharge the individual unless the responsible professional obtains an order under
39 Part 7 or 8 of this Article to hold the client.

40 (e) In any case in which an order is issued authorizing the involuntary commitment of
41 an individual admitted to a facility under this Part, the facility's further treatment and holding of
42 the individual shall be in accordance with Part 7 or 8 of this Article, whichever is applicable.

43 **"§§ 122C-215 through 122C-220: Reserved for future codification purposes."**

44 **SECTION 15.** G.S. 122C-221(a) reads as rewritten:

45 "(a) Except as otherwise provided in this Part, a minor may be admitted to a facility if
46 the minor is mentally ill or a substance abuser and in need of treatment. Except as otherwise
47 provided in this Part, the provisions of G.S. 122C-211 shall apply to admissions of minors
48 under this Part. Except as provided in G.S. 90-21.5, in applying for admission to a facility, in
49 consenting to medical treatment when consent is required, and in any other legal procedure
50 under this Article, the legally responsible person shall act for the minor. The application for
51 admission of the minor shall be in writing and signed by the legally responsible person. If a

1 minor reaches the age of 18 while in treatment under this Part, further treatment is authorized
2 only on the written authorization of the client or under the provisions of Part 7 or Part 8 of
3 Article 5 of this Chapter."

4 **SECTION 16.** G.S. 122C-224(c) reads as rewritten:

5 "(c) Within 24 hours after admission, the facility shall notify the clerk of court in the
6 county where the facility is located that the minor has been admitted and that a hearing for
7 concurrence in the admission must be scheduled. At the time notice is given to schedule a
8 hearing, the facility shall (i) notify the clerk of the names and addresses of the legally
9 responsible person and the responsible ~~professional~~ and (ii) provide the clerk with
10 a copy of the legally responsible person's written application for admission of the minor and the
11 facility's written evaluation of the minor, both of which are required under G.S. 122C-211(a)."

12 **SECTION 17.** Part 4 of Article 5 of Chapter 122C of the General Statutes is
13 amended by adding a new section to read:

14 **"§ 122C-230. Applicability of Part 4.**

15 This Part applies to adults who are adjudicated incompetent by a court of competent
16 jurisdiction. This Part does not apply to the admission of adults who are deemed incapable but
17 who have not been adjudicated incompetent."

18 **SECTION 18.** G.S. 122C-232 reads as rewritten:

19 **"§ 122C-232. Judicial determination.**

20 (a) When an incompetent adult is admitted to a 24-hour facility where the incompetent
21 adult will be subjected to the same restrictions on his freedom of movement present in the State
22 facilities for the mentally ill, or to similar restrictions, a hearing shall be held in the district
23 court in the county in which the 24-hour facility is located within 10 days ~~of~~ after the day ~~that~~
24 the incompetent adult is admitted to the facility. A continuance of not more than five days may
25 be granted upon motion ~~of~~ any of the following:

- 26 (1) ~~The court;~~ court.
- 27 (2) Respondent's ~~counsel;~~ or counsel.
- 28 (3) The responsible professional.

29 The Commission shall adopt rules governing procedures for admission to other 24-hour
30 facilities not falling within the category of facilities where freedom of movement is restricted;
31 these rules shall be designed to ensure that no incompetent adult is improperly admitted to or
32 remains in a facility.

33 (a1) Prior to admission, the facility shall provide the incompetent adult and the legally
34 responsible person with written information describing the procedures for court review of the
35 admission and the procedures for discharge.

36 (a2) Within 24 hours after admission, the facility shall notify the clerk of court of the
37 county in which the facility is located that the incompetent adult has been admitted and that a
38 hearing for concurrence in the admission must be scheduled. At the time the facility provides
39 notice to the court to schedule a hearing for concurrence, the facility shall notify the clerk of the
40 names and addresses of the legally responsible person and the responsible professional and
41 provide a copy of the legally responsible person's written application for evaluation or
42 admission of the incompetent adult and the facility's evaluation of the incompetent adult.

43 (b) In any case requiring the hearing described in subsection (a) of this section, no
44 petition is necessary; the written application for voluntary admission shall serve as the initiating
45 document for the hearing. The court shall determine whether the incompetent adult is mentally
46 ill or a substance abuser and is in need of further treatment at the facility. Further treatment at
47 the facility should be undertaken only when lesser measures will be insufficient. If the court
48 finds by clear, cogent, and convincing evidence that these requirements have been met, the
49 court shall concur with the voluntary admission of the incompetent adult and set the length of
50 the authorized admission for a period not to exceed 90 days. If the court finds that these
51 requirements have not been met, it shall order that the incompetent adult be released. A finding

1 of dangerousness to self or others is not necessary to support the determination that further
2 treatment should be undertaken.

3 (c) Unless otherwise provided in this Part, the hearing specified in subsection (a) of this
4 section, including the provisions for representation of indigent incompetent adults, all
5 subsequent proceedings, and conditional release are governed by the involuntary commitment
6 procedures of Part 7 of this Article.

7 (d) In addition to the notice of hearings and rehearings to the incompetent adult and his
8 or her counsel required under Part 7 of this Article, notice shall be given by the clerk to the
9 legally responsible ~~person, person~~ or ~~his successor~~ a successor to the legally responsible person.
10 The legally responsible ~~person, person~~ or ~~his~~ a successor to the legally responsible person may
11 also file with the clerk of court a written waiver of ~~his~~ the right to receive notice."

12 **SECTION 19.** G.S. 122C-251 reads as rewritten:

13 **"§ 122C-251. ~~Transportation.~~ Custody and transportation.**

14 (a) Except as provided in subsections (f) and (g), transportation of a respondent within a
15 county under the involuntary commitment proceedings of this Article, including admission and
16 discharge, shall be provided by the city or county. The city has the duty to provide
17 transportation of a respondent who is a resident of the city or who ~~is~~ can be taken into custody
18 in the city limits. The county has the duty to provide transportation for a respondent who
19 resides in the county outside city limits or who ~~is~~ can be taken into custody outside of city
20 limits. However, cities and counties may contract with each other to provide transportation.

21 (b) Except as provided in subsections (f) and (g) or in G.S. 122C-408(b), transportation
22 between counties under the involuntary commitment proceedings of this Article for admission
23 to a 24-hour facility shall be provided by the county where the respondent is taken into custody.
24 Transportation between counties under the involuntary commitment proceedings of this Article
25 for respondents held in 24-hour facilities who have requested a change of venue for the district
26 court hearing shall be provided by the county where the petition for involuntary commitment
27 was initiated. Transportation between counties under the involuntary commitment proceedings
28 of this Article for discharge of a respondent from a 24-hour facility shall be provided by the
29 county of residence of the respondent. However, a respondent being discharged from a facility
30 may use his own transportation at his own expense. Transportation between counties under the
31 involuntary commitment proceedings of this Article for a first examination at a location
32 described in G.S. 122C-263(a) and G.S. 122C-238(a) shall be provided by the county where the
33 respondent is taken into custody.

34 (c) Transportation of a respondent may be (i) by city- or county-owned ~~vehicles~~
35 ~~or vehicles~~, (ii) by private vehicle by contract with the city or ~~county~~ county, or (iii) as provided
36 in a plan adopted under subsection (g) of this section. To the extent feasible, law enforcement
37 officers transporting respondents shall dress in plain clothes and shall travel in unmarked
38 vehicles. Further, law enforcement officers, to the extent ~~possible~~, feasible, shall advise
39 respondents when taking them into custody that they are not under arrest and have not
40 committed a crime, but are being taken into custody and transported to receive treatment and
41 for their own safety and that of others.

42 (d) To the extent feasible, in providing transportation of a respondent, a city or county
43 shall provide a driver or attendant who is the same sex as the respondent, unless the
44 ~~law enforcement~~ law enforcement officer allows a family member of the respondent to
45 accompany the respondent in lieu of an attendant of the same sex as the respondent.

46 (e) In taking custody and providing transportation as required by this section, the
47 ~~law enforcement~~ law enforcement officer may not use ~~reasonable~~ force to restrain the
48 respondent ~~if~~ unless it appears necessary to protect ~~himself~~, the law enforcement officer, the
49 respondent, or others. The law enforcement officer shall use the least restrictive and most
50 reasonable restraint under the circumstances and afford the respondent as much dignity as the
51 circumstances permit, taking into consideration the age, medical condition, special needs, and

1 behavior of the respondent. To the extent feasible, the law enforcement officer's application of
2 force or restraint shall avoid aggravating or worsening the respondent's preexisting injuries or
3 medical conditions. To the extent feasible, the law enforcement officer shall consult a parent,
4 caretaker, or other legally responsible person prior to restraining a minor. The law enforcement
5 officer shall record on the return of service portion of the custody order the type of mechanical
6 restraint used on a respondent, if any, when taking the respondent into custody or transporting
7 the respondent. No ~~law enforcement~~ law enforcement officer may be held criminally or civilly
8 liable for assault, false imprisonment, or other torts or crimes on account of reasonable
9 measures taken under the authority of this Article. The limitations and conditions in this
10 subsection on the use of force and restraint do not apply to acute care hospitals or general
11 hospitals and their employees or contractors when the use of force and restraint by these
12 entities and persons is governed by rules for accreditation adopted by accrediting bodies that
13 review these entities and persons for compliance with the accreditation rules.

14 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section, a
15 clerk, a magistrate, or a district court judge, where applicable, may authorize the family or
16 immediate friends of the respondent, if they so request, to transport the respondent in
17 accordance with the procedures of this Article. This authorization shall only be granted in cases
18 where the danger to the public, the family or friends of the respondent, or the respondent
19 himself or herself is not substantial. The family or immediate friends of the respondent shall
20 bear the costs of providing this transportation.

21 (g) The governing body of a ~~city or county~~ city, county, or LME/MCO may adopt a
22 plan for the custody and transportation of respondents in involuntary commitment proceedings
23 ~~in under~~ this Article. ~~Law enforcement personnel,~~ The plan may designate law enforcement
24 officers, volunteers, or other public or private agency personnel may be designated to provide
25 all or parts of the custody and transportation required by involuntary commitment
26 proceedings. proceedings, including taking a respondent into custody as ordered by a clerk of
27 superior court or magistrate. Persons so designated shall be trained in accordance with
28 G.S. 122C-202.2(a)(3) and the plan shall assure adequate safety and protections for both the
29 public and the respondent. ~~Law enforcement,~~ Affected law enforcement agencies, acute care
30 hospitals, magistrates, clerks of superior court, area facilities, other affected agencies, and the
31 area authority shall participate in the planning. ~~If any person other than a law enforcement~~
32 agency is designated by a city or county, the person so designated ~~Any person or agency~~
33 designated by a city, county, or LME/MCO to provide all or parts of the custody and
34 transportation required by involuntary commitment proceedings shall provide the custody and
35 transportation and follow the procedures in this Article. References in this Article to a
36 ~~law enforcement~~ law enforcement officer apply to this ~~person~~ designated person or agency. A
37 person shall not be designated without the consent of (i) the person or (ii) the agency that
38 employs the person or contracts for the person's services. Counties and cities shall retain the
39 responsibilities set forth in this Article, except as otherwise described in a plan developed and
40 adopted pursuant this subsection.

41 (h) The cost and expenses for custody and transportation of transporting a respondent to
42 or from a 24-hour facility ~~as required by the involuntary commitment procedures of this Article~~
43 is the responsibility of the county of residence of the ~~respondent~~ respondent unless otherwise
44 provided in a plan adopted under subsection (g) of this section. The State (when providing
45 transportation under G.S. 122C-408(b)), a city, or a county is entitled to recover the reasonable
46 cost of transportation from the county of residence of the respondent. The county of residence
47 of the respondent shall reimburse the State, another county, or a city the reasonable
48 transportation costs incurred as authorized by this subsection. The county of residence of the
49 respondent is entitled to recover the reasonable cost of transportation it has paid to the State, a
50 city, or a county. Provided that the county of residence provides the respondent or other

1 individual liable for the respondent's support a reasonable notice and opportunity to object to
2 the reimbursement, the county of residence of the respondent may recover that cost from:

- 3 (1) The respondent, if the respondent is not indigent;
- 4 (2) Any person or entity that is legally liable for the resident's support and
5 maintenance provided there is sufficient property to pay the cost;
- 6 (3) Any person or entity that is contractually responsible for the cost; or
- 7 (4) Any person or entity that otherwise is liable under federal, State, or local law
8 for the cost."

9 **SECTION 20.** G.S. 122C-253 reads as rewritten:

10 **"§ 122C-253. Fees under commitment order.**

11 Nothing contained in Parts 6, 7, or 8 of this Article requires a private physician, private
12 psychologist, commitment examiner, or private facility to accept a respondent as a client either
13 before or after commitment. Treatment at a private facility or by a private ~~physician~~
14 ~~or physician~~, private ~~psychologist~~ psychologist, or commitment examiner is at the expense of
15 the respondent to the extent that the charges are not disposed of by contract between the area
16 authority and the private facility. An area authority and its contract agencies shall set and
17 recover fees for inpatient or outpatient treatment services provided under a commitment order
18 in accordance with G.S. 122C-146."

19 **SECTION 21.** G.S. 122C-255 reads as rewritten:

20 **"§ 122C-255. Report required.**

21 ~~Beginning January 1, 2012, each~~Each 24-hour ~~residential~~ facility that (i) falls under the
22 category of nonhospital medical detoxification, facility-based crisis service, or inpatient
23 hospital treatment, (ii) is not a State facility under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Health
24 and Human Services, and (iii) is designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services as
25 a facility for the custody and treatment of individuals under a petition of involuntary
26 commitment pursuant to G.S. 122C-252 and 10A NCAC 26C .0101 shall submit a written
27 report on involuntary commitments each January 1 and each July 1 to the Department of Health
28 and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance
29 Abuse Services. The report shall include all of the following:

- 30 (1) The number and primary presenting conditions of individuals receiving
31 treatment from the facility under a petition of involuntary commitment.
- 32 (2) The number of individuals for whom an involuntary commitment proceeding
33 was initiated at the facility, who were referred to a different facility or
34 program.
- 35 (3) The reason for referring the individuals described in subdivision (2) of this
36 section to a different facility or program, including the need for more
37 intensive medical supervision."

38 **SECTION 22.** G.S. 122C-261 reads as rewritten:

39 **"§ 122C-261. Affidavit and petition before clerk or magistrate when immediate
40 hospitalization is not necessary; custody order.**

41 (a) Anyone who has knowledge of an individual who is mentally ill and either (i)
42 dangerous to self, as defined in G.S. 122C-3(11)a., or dangerous to others, as defined in
43 G.S. 122C-3(11)b., or (ii) in need of treatment in order to prevent further disability or
44 deterioration that would predictably result in dangerousness, may appear before a clerk or
45 assistant or deputy clerk of superior court or a magistrate and execute an affidavit to this effect,
46 and petition the clerk or magistrate for issuance of an order to take the respondent into custody
47 for examination by a ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~ commitment examiner. The affidavit
48 shall include the facts on which the affiant's opinion is based. If the affiant has knowledge or
49 reasonably believes that the respondent, in addition to being mentally ill, is also mentally
50 retarded, this fact shall be stated in the affidavit. Jurisdiction under this subsection is in the
51 clerk or magistrate in the county where the respondent resides or is found.

1 (b) If the clerk or magistrate finds reasonable grounds to believe that the facts alleged in
2 the affidavit are true and that the respondent is probably mentally ill and either (i) dangerous to
3 self, as defined in G.S. 122C-3(11)a., or dangerous to others, as defined in G.S. 122C-3(11)b.,
4 or (ii) in need of treatment in order to prevent further disability or deterioration that would
5 predictably result in dangerousness, the clerk or magistrate shall issue an order to a law
6 enforcement officer or any other person authorized under G.S. 122C-251 to take the respondent
7 into custody for examination by a ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~commitment examiner. If
8 the clerk or magistrate finds that, in addition to probably being mentally ill, the respondent is
9 also probably mentally retarded, the clerk or magistrate shall contact the area authority before
10 issuing a custody order and the area authority shall designate the facility to which the
11 respondent is to be taken for examination by a ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~commitment
12 examiner. The clerk or magistrate shall provide the petitioner and the respondent, if present,
13 with specific information regarding the next steps that will occur for the respondent.

14 (c) If the clerk or magistrate issues a custody order, the clerk or magistrate shall also
15 make inquiry in any reliable way as to whether the respondent is indigent within the meaning of
16 G.S. 7A-450. A magistrate shall report the result of this inquiry to the clerk.

17 (d) If the affiant is a ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~commitment examiner, all of the
18 following apply:

- 19 (1) ~~The~~If the affiant has examined the respondent, the affiant may execute the
20 affidavit before any official authorized to administer oaths. This affiant is
21 not required to appear before the clerk or magistrate for this purpose. This
22 affiant shall file the affidavit with the clerk or magistrate by delivering to the
23 clerk or magistrate the original affidavit or affidavit, by transmitting a copy
24 in paper form that is printed through the facsimile transmission of the
25 affidavit. affidavit, or by delivering the affidavit through electronic
26 transmission. If the affidavit is filed through electronic or facsimile
27 transmission, the affiant shall mail the original affidavit no later than five
28 days after the facsimile transmission of the affidavit to the clerk or
29 magistrate to be filed by the clerk or magistrate with the facsimile copy of
30 the affidavit.
- 31 (2) This affiant's examination shall comply with the requirements of the initial
32 examination as provided in G.S. 122C-263(c). The affiant shall document in
33 writing and file the examination findings with the affidavit delivered to the
34 clerk or magistrate in accordance with subdivision (d)(1) of this section.
- 35 (3) If the ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~commitment examiner recommends
36 outpatient commitment according to the criteria for outpatient commitment
37 set forth in G.S. 122C-263(d)(1) and the clerk or magistrate finds probable
38 cause to believe that the respondent meets the criteria for outpatient
39 commitment, the clerk or magistrate shall issue an order that a hearing
40 before a district court judge be held to determine whether the respondent will
41 be involuntarily committed. The physician or eligible psychologist shall
42 provide the respondent with written notice of any scheduled appointment
43 and the name, address, and telephone number of the proposed outpatient
44 treatment physician or center. The physician or eligible psychologistThe
45 commitment examiner shall contact the local management entity LME/MCO
46 that serves the county where the respondent resides or the local management
47 entity LME/MCO that coordinated services for the respondent to inform the
48 local management entity LME/MCO that the respondent is being
49 recommended for outpatient commitment. The LME/MCO shall determine
50 whether the respondent is a client of the LME/MCO or eligible for services
51 through the LME/MCO and, if so, shall identify and schedule an

1 appointment with a proposed outpatient treatment physician or center and
2 provide the commitment examiner with the name, address, and telephone
3 number of the proposed outpatient treatment physician or center and the date
4 and time that the respondent has been scheduled for an appointment with an
5 the outpatient treatment physician or center. The commitment examiner shall
6 provide the respondent with written notice of any scheduled appointment
7 and the name, address, and telephone number of the proposed outpatient
8 treatment physician or center.

9 (4) If the ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~ commitment examiner recommends
10 inpatient commitment based on the criteria for inpatient commitment set
11 forth in G.S. 122C-263(d)(2) and the clerk or magistrate finds probable
12 cause to believe that the respondent meets the criteria for inpatient
13 commitment, the clerk or magistrate shall issue an order to a law
14 enforcement officer or any other person authorized under G.S. 122C-251(g)
15 to take the respondent into custody for transportation to or custody at a
16 24-hour facility described in G.S. 122C-252, provided G.S. 122C-252;
17 provided, however, that if a 24-hour facility is not immediately available or
18 appropriate to the respondent's medical condition, the respondent may be
19 temporarily detained under appropriate supervision and, upon further
20 examination, released in accordance with G.S. 122C-263(d)(2).

21 (5) If the affiant is a physician or eligible psychologist at a 24-hour facility
22 described in G.S. 122C-252 who recommends inpatient commitment; the
23 respondent is physically present on the premises of the same 24-hour
24 facility; and the clerk or magistrate finds probable cause to believe that the
25 respondent meets the criteria for inpatient commitment, then the clerk or
26 magistrate may issue an order by facsimile transmission or may issue an
27 electronically scanned order by electronic transmission to the physician or
28 eligible psychologist at the 24-hour facility, or a designee, to take the
29 respondent into custody at the 24-hour facility and proceed according to
30 G.S. 122C-266. Upon receipt of the custody order, the physician or eligible
31 psychologist at the 24-hour facility, or a designee, shall immediately (i)
32 notify the respondent that the respondent is not under arrest and has not
33 committed a crime but is being taken into custody to receive treatment and
34 for the respondent's own safety and the safety of others, (ii) take the
35 respondent into custody, and (iii) complete and sign the appropriate portion
36 of the custody order and return the order to the clerk or magistrate either by
37 facsimile transmission or by scanning it and sending it by electronic
38 transmission. The physician or eligible psychologist, or a designee, shall
39 mail the original custody order no later than five days after returning it by
40 means of facsimile or electronic transmission to the clerk or magistrate. The
41 clerk or magistrate shall file the original custody order with the copy of the
42 custody order that was electronically returned.

43 Notwithstanding the provisions of this subdivision, a clerk or magistrate
44 shall not issue a custody order to a physician or eligible psychologist at a
45 24-hour facility, or a designee, if the physician or eligible psychologist, or a
46 designee, has not completed training in proper service and return of service.
47 As used in this subdivision, the term "designee" includes the 24-hour
48 facility's on-site police security personnel.

49 The Department of Health and Human Services shall cooperate and
50 collaborate with the Administrative Office of the Courts and the UNC
51 School of Government to develop protocols to implement this section,

1 including a procedure for notifying clerks and magistrates of the names of
2 the physicians, psychologists, and designees who have completed the
3 training. The Secretary of the Department shall oversee implementation of
4 these protocols.

5 (6) If the clerk or magistrate finds probable cause to believe that the respondent,
6 in addition to being mentally ill, is also mentally retarded, the clerk or
7 magistrate shall contact the area authority before issuing the order and the
8 area authority shall designate the facility to which the respondent is to be
9 transported.

10 (7) If a ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~ commitment examiner executes an
11 affidavit for inpatient commitment of a respondent, a ~~second physician who~~
12 is not the commitment examiner who performed the examination under this
13 section shall be required to perform the examination required by
14 G.S. 122C-266.

15 (8) No commitment examiner, area facility, acute care hospital, general hospital,
16 or other site of first examination, or its officials, staff, employees, or other
17 individuals responsible for the custody, examination, detention,
18 management, supervision, treatment, or release of an individual examined
19 for commitment and who follows accepted professional judgment, standards,
20 and practice, shall be held liable in any civil or criminal action for taking
21 reasonable measures to temporarily detain an individual for the period of
22 time necessary to complete a commitment examination, submit an affidavit
23 to the magistrate or clerk of court, and await the issuance of a custody order
24 as authorized by subsection (d) of this section, as long as the commitment
25 examiner has a reasonable and good-faith belief that detention pending the
26 examination and issuance of a custody order is necessary to protect the
27 individual or others from bodily harm or life endangerment. If the individual
28 is temporarily detained under the circumstances described in this
29 subdivision, the examiner shall certify in the affidavit delivered to the clerk
30 or magistrate in accordance with subdivision (d)(1) of this section the reason
31 the individual requires temporary detention pending the issuance of a
32 custody order.

33 (e) Except as provided in subdivision (5) of subsection (d) of this section, upon receipt
34 of the custody order of the clerk or magistrate or a custody order issued by the court pursuant to
35 G.S. 15A-1003, a law enforcement officer or other person designated in the order shall take the
36 respondent into custody within 24 hours after the order is signed, and proceed according to
37 G.S. 122C-263. The custody order is valid throughout the State.

38 (f) ~~When a petition is filed for an individual who is a resident of a single portal area,~~
39 ~~the procedures for examination by a physician or eligible psychologist as set forth in~~
40 ~~G.S. 122C-263 shall be carried out in accordance with the area plan. Prior to issuance of a~~
41 ~~eustody order for a respondent who resides in an area authority with a single portal plan, the~~
42 ~~clerk or magistrate shall communicate with the area authority to determine the appropriate~~
43 ~~24-hour facility to which the respondent should be admitted according to the area plan or to~~
44 ~~determine if there are more appropriate resources available through the area authority to assist~~
45 ~~the petitioner or the respondent. When an individual from a single portal area is presented for~~
46 ~~commitment at a 24-hour area or State facility directly, the individual may not be accepted for~~
47 ~~admission until the facility notifies the area authority and the area authority agrees to the~~
48 ~~admission. If the area authority does not agree to the admission, it shall determine the~~
49 ~~appropriate 24-hour facility to which the individual should be admitted according to the area~~
50 ~~plan or determine if there are more appropriate resources available through the area authority to~~
51 ~~assist the individual. If the area authority agrees to the admission, further planning of treatment~~

1 for the client is the joint responsibility of the area authority and the facility as prescribed in the
2 area plan.

3 Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, in no event shall an individual known or
4 reasonably believed to be mentally retarded be admitted to a State psychiatric hospital, except
5 as follows:

- 6 (1) Persons described in G.S. 122C-266(b);
- 7 (2) Persons admitted pursuant to G.S. 15A-1321;
- 8 (3) Respondents who are so extremely dangerous as to pose a serious threat to
9 the community and to other patients committed to non-State hospital
10 psychiatric inpatient units, as determined by the Director of the Division of
11 Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services
12 or his designee; and
- 13 (4) Respondents who are so gravely disabled by both multiple disorders and
14 medical fragility or multiple disorders and deafness that alternative care is
15 inappropriate, as determined by the Director of the Division of Mental
16 Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services or his
17 designee.

18 Individuals transported to a State facility for the mentally ill who are not admitted by the
19 facility may be transported by law enforcement officers or designated staff of the State facility
20 in State-owned vehicles to an appropriate 24-hour facility that provides psychiatric inpatient
21 care.

22 No later than 24 hours after the transfer, the responsible professional at the original facility
23 shall notify the petitioner, the clerk of court, and, if consent is granted by the respondent, the
24 next of kin, that the transfer has been completed."

25 **SECTION 23.** G.S. 122C-262 reads as rewritten:

26 **"§ 122C-262. Special emergency procedure for individuals needing immediate**
27 **hospitalization.**

28 (a) Anyone, including a law enforcement officer, who has knowledge of an individual
29 who is subject to inpatient commitment according to the criteria of
30 ~~G.S. 122C-261(a)~~ G.S. 122C-263(d)(2) and who requires immediate hospitalization to prevent
31 harm to self or others, may transport the individual directly to an area facility or other place,
32 including a State facility for the mentally ill, for examination by a ~~physician or eligible~~
33 ~~psychologist~~ commitment examiner in accordance with G.S. 122C-263(c).

34 (b) Upon examination by the ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~ commitment examiner,
35 if the individual meets the inpatient commitment criteria required—specified in
36 G.S. 122C-261(a), the physician or eligible psychologist—G.S. 122C-263(d)(2) and requires
37 immediate hospitalization to prevent harm to self or others, the commitment examiner shall so
38 certify in writing before any official authorized to administer oaths. The certificate shall also
39 state the reason that the individual requires immediate hospitalization. If the ~~physician or~~
40 ~~eligible psychologist~~ commitment examiner knows or has reason to believe that the individual is
41 mentally retarded, the certificate shall so state.

42 (c) If the ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~ commitment examiner executes the oath,
43 appearance before a magistrate shall be waived. The ~~physician or eligible~~
44 ~~psychologist~~ commitment examiner shall send a copy of the certificate to the clerk of superior
45 court by the most reliable and expeditious means. If it cannot be reasonably anticipated that the
46 clerk will receive the copy within 24 hours, excluding Saturday, Sunday, and holidays, of the
47 time that it was signed, the ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~ commitment examiner shall also
48 communicate the findings to the clerk by telephone.

49 (d) Anyone, including a law enforcement officer if necessary, may transport the
50 individual to a 24-hour facility described in G.S. 122C-252 for examination and treatment
51 pending a district court hearing. If there is no area 24-hour facility and if the respondent is

1 indigent and unable to pay for care at a private 24-hour facility, the law enforcement officer or
2 other designated person providing transportation shall take the respondent to a State facility for
3 the mentally ill designated by the Commission in accordance with G.S. 143B-147(a)(1)a and
4 immediately notify the clerk of superior court of this action. ~~The physician's or eligible~~
5 ~~psychologist's~~ commitment examiner's certificate shall serve as the custody order and the law
6 enforcement officer or other designated person shall provide transportation in accordance with
7 the provisions of G.S. 122C-251. If a 24-hour facility is not immediately available or
8 appropriate to the respondent's medical condition, the respondent may be temporarily detained
9 under appropriate supervision in accordance with G.S. 122C-263(d)(2) and released in
10 accordance with G.S. 122C-263(d)(2).

11 In the event an individual known or reasonably believed to be mentally retarded is
12 transported to a State facility for the mentally ill, in no event shall that individual be admitted to
13 that facility except as follows:

- 14 (1) Persons described in G.S. 122C-266(b);
- 15 (2) Persons admitted pursuant to G.S. 15A-1321;
- 16 (3) Respondents who are so extremely dangerous as to pose a serious threat to
17 the community and to other patients committed to non-State hospital
18 psychiatric inpatient units, as determined by the Director of the Division of
19 Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services
20 or his designee; and
- 21 (4) Respondents who are so gravely disabled by both multiple disorders and
22 medical fragility or multiple disorders and deafness that alternative care is
23 inappropriate, as determined by the Director of the Division of Mental
24 Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services or his
25 designee.

26 Individuals transported to a State facility for the mentally ill who are not admitted by the
27 facility may be transported by law enforcement officers or designated staff of the State facility
28 in State-owned vehicles to an appropriate 24-hour facility that provides psychiatric inpatient
29 care.

30 No later than 24 hours after the transfer, the responsible professional at the original facility
31 shall notify the petitioner, the clerk of court, and, if consent is granted by the respondent, the
32 next of kin, that the transfer has been completed.

33 (e) Respondents received at a 24-hour facility under the provisions of this section shall
34 be examined by a second physician in accordance with G.S. 122C-266. After receipt of
35 notification that the district court has determined reasonable grounds for the commitment,
36 further proceedings shall be carried out in the same way as for all other respondents under this
37 Part.

38 (f) If, upon examination of a respondent presented in accordance with subsection (a) of
39 this section, the commitment examiner finds that the individual meets the criteria for inpatient
40 commitment specified in G.S. 122C-263(d)(2) but does not require immediate hospitalization
41 to prevent harm to self or others, the commitment examiner may petition the clerk or magistrate
42 in accordance with G.S. 122C-261(d) for an order to take the individual into custody for
43 transport to a 24-hour facility described in G.S. 122C-252. If the commitment examiner
44 recommends inpatient commitment and the clerk or magistrate finds probable cause to believe
45 that the respondent meets the criteria for inpatient commitment, the clerk or magistrate shall
46 issue an order for transport to or custody at a 24-hour facility described in G.S. 122C-252;
47 provided, however, that if a 24-hour facility is not immediately available or appropriate to the
48 respondent's medical condition, the respondent may be temporarily detained under appropriate
49 supervision in accordance with G.S. 122C-263(d)(2) and released in accordance with
50 G.S. 122C-263(d)(2).

1 (g) This section applies exclusively to an individual who is transported to an
2 examination by a commitment examiner in accordance with subsection (a) of this section."

3 **SECTION 24.** G.S. 122C-263 reads as rewritten:

4 "**§ 122C-263. Duties of ~~law-enforcement~~law enforcement officer; first examination by**
5 **physician or eligible psychologist.**examination.

6 (a) Without unnecessary delay after assuming custody, the law enforcement officer or
7 the individual designated by the clerk or magistrate under G.S. 122C-251(g) to provide
8 transportation shall take the respondent to an area facility identified by the LME/MCO in the
9 community crisis services plan adopted pursuant to G.S. 122C-202.2 for examination by a
10 physician or eligible psychologist; if a physician or eligible psychologist commitment
11 examiner. If an area facility identified in the plan or one of its commitment examiners is not
12 available in the area facility, available, or if there is no area facility identified in the plan, the
13 person designated to provide transportation shall take the respondent to any physician or
14 eligible psychologist locally available. If a physician or eligible psychologist acute care
15 hospital identified by the LME/MCO in the community crisis services plan adopted pursuant to
16 G.S. 122C-202.2. If a commitment examiner is not immediately available, available in such
17 area facility or acute care hospital, the respondent may be temporarily detained in an area
18 facility, if one is available; if an area facility is not available, the respondent may be detained
19 under appropriate supervision in the respondent's home, in a private hospital or a clinic, in a
20 general hospital, or in a State facility for the mentally ill, under appropriate supervision in such
21 area facility or acute care hospital but not in a jail or other penal facility. If no identified facility
22 or acute care hospital is available, the law enforcement officer or other designated individual
23 shall transport the respondent to any commitment examiner available in a private hospital or
24 clinic, a general hospital, or a State facility for the mentally ill.

25 (a1) An area facility that is identified by the LME/MCO in accordance with G.S. 122C
26 202.2 as a site for conducting first examinations under subsection (a) of this section shall be
27 capable of performing a medical screening examination of the respondent that consists of a
28 history and physical appropriate to the respondent's complaint or condition, with ancillary
29 testing as necessary. The medical screening examination shall be conducted by a physician or
30 other individual who is determined by the area facility to be qualified to perform the medical
31 screening and is practicing within the scope of his or her licensure. The respondent may either
32 be in the physical face to face presence of the medical screening examiner or may be examined
33 utilizing telemedicine equipment and procedures. If the area facility in subsection (a) of this
34 section determines that an individual qualified to perform a medical screening examination
35 appropriate to the respondent's complaint or condition is not available on-site or via
36 telemedicine, the area facility shall identify and contact another area facility that is capable of
37 performing the medical screening, or an acute care hospital, and the law enforcement officer or
38 other designated person shall transport the respondent to the identified facility or hospital.

39 (a2) The responsible professional at an area facility or other site of first examination may
40 transfer a respondent to an acute care hospital for emergency medical treatment, emergency
41 medical evaluation, emergency surgery, or other medical treatment that the site of first
42 examination is unable to provide by directing the law enforcement officer or other person
43 designated under G.S. 122C 251(g) to transport the respondent to an identified acute care
44 hospital. When the respondent is transferred solely for medical reasons, the original facility
45 shall accept the return of the respondent and the respondent shall be returned to the original
46 facility after the medical care is completed unless the responsible professionals at both facilities
47 concur that the respondent no longer meets the criteria for commitment and recommend that the
48 commitment proceedings be terminated. Any decision to terminate the proceedings shall be
49 documented and reported to the clerk of superior court in accordance with subsection (e) of this
50 section.

1 (b) The examination set forth in subsection (a) of this section is not required ~~if under~~
2 any of the following circumstances:

3 (1) The affiant who obtained the custody order is a ~~physician or eligible~~
4 ~~psychologist~~ commitment examiner who recommends inpatient
5 ~~commitment;~~ commitment.

6 (2) The custody order states that the respondent was charged with a violent
7 crime, including a crime involving assault with a deadly weapon, and ~~he the~~
8 respondent was found incapable of ~~proceeding;~~ or proceeding.

9 (3) Repealed by Session Laws 1987, c. 596, s. 3.

10 In any of these cases, the ~~law enforcement~~ law enforcement officer shall take the respondent
11 directly to a 24-hour facility described in G.S. 122C-252.

12 (c) The ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~ commitment examiner described in subsection
13 (a) of this section shall examine the respondent as soon as possible, and in any event within 24
14 ~~hours,~~ hours after the respondent is presented for examination. When the examination set forth
15 in subsection (a) of this section is performed by a ~~physician or eligible~~
16 ~~psychologist~~ commitment examiner, the respondent may either be in the physical face-to-face
17 presence of the ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~ commitment examiner or may be examined
18 utilizing telemedicine equipment and procedures. A ~~physician or eligible~~
19 ~~psychologist~~ commitment examiner who examines a respondent by means of telemedicine must
20 be satisfied to a reasonable medical certainty that the determinations made in accordance with
21 subsection (d) of this section would not be different if the examination had been done in the
22 physical presence of the ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~. A ~~physician or eligible~~
23 ~~psychologist~~ commitment examiner. A commitment examiner who is not so satisfied must note
24 that the examination was not satisfactorily accomplished, and the respondent must be taken for
25 a face-to-face examination in the physical presence of a person authorized to perform
26 examinations under this section. As used in this ~~subsection,~~ section, "telemedicine" is the use of
27 two-way real-time interactive audio and video between places of lesser and greater medical
28 capability or expertise to provide and support health care when distance separates participants
29 who are in different geographical locations. A recipient is referred by one provider to receive
30 the services of another provider via telemedicine.

31 The examination shall include ~~but is not limited to~~ an assessment of ~~the respondent's;~~ at least
32 all of the following with respect to the respondent:

33 (1) Current and previous mental illness and mental retardation including, if
34 available, previous treatment ~~history;~~ history.

35 (2) Dangerousness to self, as defined in G.S. 122C-3(11)a. or others, as defined
36 in ~~G.S. 122C-3(11)b.;~~ G.S. 122C-3(11)b.

37 (3) Ability to survive safely without inpatient commitment, including the
38 availability of supervision from family, friends or ~~others;~~ and others.

39 (4) Capacity to make an informed decision concerning treatment.

40 (d) After the conclusion of the examination the ~~physician or eligible~~
41 ~~psychologist~~ commitment examiner shall make the following determinations:

42 (1) If the ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~ commitment examiner finds ~~that;~~ all
43 of the following:

44 a. The respondent is mentally ~~ill;~~ ill.

45 b. The respondent is capable of surviving safely in the community with
46 available supervision from family, friends, or ~~others;~~ others.

47 c. Based on the respondent's psychiatric history, the respondent is in
48 need of treatment in order to prevent further disability or
49 deterioration that would predictably result in dangerousness as
50 defined by ~~G.S. 122C-3(11); and~~ G.S. 122C-3(11).

1 d. The respondent's current mental status or the nature of the
2 respondent's illness limits or negates the respondent's ability to make
3 an informed decision to seek voluntarily or comply with
4 recommended treatment.

5 The ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~commitment examiner shall so show
6 on the examination report and shall recommend outpatient commitment. In
7 addition the examining ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~commitment
8 examiner shall show the name, address, and telephone number of the
9 proposed outpatient treatment physician or ~~center~~center in accordance with
10 subsection (f) of this section. The person designated in the order to provide
11 transportation shall return the respondent to the respondent's regular
12 residence or, with the respondent's consent, to the home of a consenting
13 individual located in the originating county, and the respondent shall be
14 released from custody.

15 (2) If the ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~commitment examiner finds that the
16 respondent is mentally ill and is dangerous to self, as defined in
17 G.S. 122C-3(11)a., or others, as defined in G.S. 122C-3(11)b., the ~~physician~~
18 ~~or eligible psychologist~~commitment examiner shall recommend inpatient
19 commitment, and shall so show on the examination report. If, in addition to
20 mental illness and dangerousness, the ~~physician or eligible~~
21 ~~psychologist~~commitment examiner also finds that the respondent is known
22 or reasonably believed to be mentally retarded, this finding shall be shown
23 on the report. ~~The~~ Without unnecessary delay, and in any event within six
24 hours after the comment examiner's finding and recommendation, the law
25 enforcement officer or other designated person shall take the respondent to a
26 24-hour facility described in G.S. 122C-252 pending a district court hearing.
27 If there is no area 24-hour facility and if the respondent is indigent and
28 unable to pay for care at a private 24-hour facility, the law enforcement
29 officer or other designated person shall take the respondent to a State facility
30 for the mentally ill designated by the Commission in accordance with
31 G.S. 143B-147(a)(1)a. for custody, observation, and treatment and
32 immediately notify the clerk of superior court of this action. If a 24-hour
33 facility is not immediately available or appropriate to the respondent's
34 medical condition, the respondent may be temporarily detained under
35 appropriate supervision at the site of the first ~~examination, provided that at~~
36 ~~anytime that a physician or eligible psychologist~~examination. Upon the
37 commitment examiner's determination that a 24-hour facility is available and
38 medically appropriate, the law enforcement officer or other designated
39 person shall commence transporting the respondent without unnecessary
40 delay and, in any event, within six hours after receiving a request for
41 transportation by the commitment examiner. At any time during the
42 respondent's temporary detention under appropriate supervision, if a
43 commitment examiner determines that the respondent is no longer in need of
44 inpatient commitment, the proceedings shall be terminated and the
45 respondent transported and released in accordance with subdivision (3) of
46 this subsection. However, if the ~~physician or eligible~~
47 ~~psychologist~~commitment examiner determines that the respondent meets the
48 criteria for outpatient commitment, as defined in subdivision (1) of this
49 subsection, the ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~commitment examiner may
50 recommend outpatient commitment, and the respondent shall be transported
51 and released in accordance with subdivision (1) of this subsection. Any

1 decision to terminate the proceedings or to recommend outpatient
2 commitment after an initial recommendation of inpatient commitment shall
3 be documented and reported to the clerk of superior court in accordance with
4 subsection (e) of this section. If the respondent is temporarily detained and a
5 24-hour facility is not available or medically appropriate seven days after the
6 issuance of the custody order, a ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~commitment
7 examiner shall report this fact to the clerk of superior court and the
8 proceedings shall be terminated. Termination of proceedings pursuant to this
9 subdivision shall not prohibit or prevent the initiation of new involuntary
10 commitment proceedings when appropriate. A commitment examiner may
11 initiate a new involuntary commitment proceeding prior to the expiration of
12 this seven-day period, as long as the respondent continues to meet applicable
13 criteria. Affidavits filed in support of proceedings terminated pursuant to this
14 subdivision may not be submitted in support of any subsequent petitions for
15 involuntary commitment. If the affiant initiating new commitment
16 proceedings is a ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~commitment examiner,
17 the affiant shall conduct a new examination and may not rely upon
18 examinations conducted as part of proceedings terminated pursuant to this
19 subdivision.

20 In the event an individual known or reasonably believed to be mentally
21 retarded is transported to a State facility for the mentally ill, in no event shall
22 that individual be admitted to that facility except as follows:

- 23 a. Persons described in G.S. 122C-266(b);
- 24 b. Persons admitted pursuant to G.S. 15A-1321;
- 25 c. Respondents who are so extremely dangerous as to pose a serious
26 threat to the community and to other patients committed to non-State
27 hospital psychiatric inpatient units, as determined by the Director of
28 the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and
29 Substance Abuse Services or his designee; and
- 30 d. Respondents who are so gravely disabled by both multiple disorders
31 and medical fragility or multiple disorders and deafness that
32 alternative care is inappropriate, as determined by the Director of the
33 Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and
34 Substance Abuse Services or his designee.

35 Individuals transported to a State facility for the mentally ill who are not
36 admitted by the facility may be transported by law enforcement officers or
37 designated staff of the State facility in State-owned vehicles to an
38 appropriate 24-hour facility that provides psychiatric inpatient care.

39 No later than 24 hours after the transfer, the responsible professional at
40 the original facility shall notify the petitioner, the clerk of court, and, if
41 consent is granted by the respondent, the next of kin, that the transfer has
42 been completed.

- 43 (3) If the ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~commitment examiner finds that
44 neither condition described in subdivisions (1) or (2) of this subsection
45 exists, the proceedings shall be terminated. The person designated in the
46 order to provide transportation shall return the respondent to the respondent's
47 regular residence or, with the respondent's consent, to the home of a
48 consenting individual located in the originating county and the respondent
49 shall be released from custody.

50 (e) The findings of the ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~commitment examiner and the
51 facts on which they are based shall be in writing in all cases. The ~~physician or eligible~~

1 ~~psychologist~~commitment examiner shall send a copy of the findings to the clerk of superior
2 court by the most reliable and expeditious means. If it cannot be reasonably anticipated that the
3 clerk will receive the copy within 48 hours of the time that it was signed, the ~~physician or~~
4 ~~eligible psychologist~~commitment examiner shall also communicate his findings to the clerk by
5 telephone.

6 (f) When outpatient commitment is recommended, the ~~examining physician or eligible~~
7 ~~psychologist~~commitment examiner, if different from the proposed outpatient treatment
8 physician or center, shall ~~give the respondent a written notice listing the name, address, and~~
9 ~~telephone number of the proposed outpatient treatment physician or center and directing the~~
10 ~~respondent to appear at the address at a specified date and time. The examining physician or~~
11 ~~eligible psychologist before the appointment shall notify by telephone the designated outpatient~~
12 ~~treatment physician or center and shall send a copy of the notice and his examination report to~~
13 ~~the physician or center shall contact the LME/MCO that serves the county where the~~
14 ~~respondent resides or the LME/MCO that coordinated services for the respondent to inform the~~
15 ~~LME/MCO that the respondent is being recommended for outpatient commitment. The~~
16 ~~LME/MCO shall determine whether the respondent is a client of the LME/MCO or eligible for~~
17 ~~services through the LME/MCO and, if so, shall identify and schedule an appointment with a~~
18 ~~proposed outpatient treatment physician or center and provide the commitment examiner with~~
19 ~~the name, address, and telephone number of the proposed outpatient treatment physician or~~
20 ~~center and the date and time the respondent has been scheduled for an appointment with the~~
21 ~~outpatient treatment physician or center. The commitment examiner shall give the respondent a~~
22 ~~written notice listing the name, address, and telephone number of the proposed outpatient~~
23 ~~treatment physician or center and directing the respondent to appear at the address at a~~
24 ~~specified date and time. Prior to the appointment, the commitment examiner shall notify by~~
25 ~~telephone the designated outpatient treatment physician or center and shall send a copy of the~~
26 ~~notice and the commitment examiner's examination report to the physician or center.~~

27 (g) The ~~physician or eligible psychologist, commitment examiner~~, at the completion of
28 the examination, shall provide the respondent with specific information regarding the next steps
29 that will occur."

30 **SECTION 25.** G.S. 122C-263.1 reads as rewritten:

31 "**~~§ 122C-263.1. Secretary's authority to waive requirement of first examination by~~**
32 **~~physician or eligible psychologist; certify commitment examiners; training of~~**
33 **~~certified providers — commitment examiners performing first~~**
34 **~~examinations. examinations; LME/MCO responsibilities.~~**

35 (a) Physicians and eligible psychologists are qualified to perform the commitment
36 examinations required under G.S. 122C-263(c) and G.S. 122C-283(c). The Secretary of Health
37 and Human Services may, upon request of an LME, waive the requirements of G.S. 122C-261
38 through G.S. 122C-263 and G.S. 122C-281 through G.S. 122C-283 pertaining to initial
39 (first-level) examinations by a physician or eligible psychologist of individuals meeting the
40 criteria of G.S. 122C-261(a) or G.S. 122C-281(a), as applicable, as follows: may individually
41 certify to perform the first commitment examinations required by G.S. 122C-261 through
42 G.S. 122C-263 and G.S. 122C-281 through G.S. 122C-283, other health, mental health, and
43 substance abuse professionals whose scope of practice includes diagnosing and documenting
44 psychiatric or substance use disorders and conducting mental status examinations to determine
45 capacity to give informed consent to treatment as follows:

46 (1) The Secretary has received a request from an LME to substitute for a
47 ~~physician or eligible psychologist, request:~~

48 a. To certify a licensed clinical social worker, a master's level
49 psychiatric nurse, or nurse practitioner, a licensed professional
50 counselor, or a physician's assistant to conduct the first examinations
51 described in G.S. 122C-263(c) and G.S. 122C-283(c).

- 1 b. To certify a master's level certified licensed clinical addictions
2 specialist in accordance with subdivision (8) of this subsection to
3 conduct the initial (first level) examinations of individuals meeting
4 the criteria of G.S. 122C 261(a) or G.S. 122C 281(a). In making this
5 type of request, the LME shall specifically describe all of the
6 following to conduct the first examination described in
7 G.S. 122C-283(c).
- 8 a. ~~How the purpose of the statutory requirement would be better served~~
9 ~~by waiving the requirement and substituting the proposed change~~
10 ~~under the waiver.~~
- 11 b. ~~How the waiver will enable the LME to improve the delivery or~~
12 ~~management of mental health, developmental disabilities, and~~
13 ~~substance abuse services.~~
- 14 e. ~~How the health, safety, and welfare of individuals will continue to be~~
15 ~~at least as well protected under the waiver as under the statutory~~
16 ~~requirement.~~
- 17 (2) The Secretary shall review the request and may approve it upon finding all
18 of the following:
- 19 a. The request meets the requirements of this section.
- 20 b. ~~The request furthers the purposes of State policy under G.S. 122C 2~~
21 ~~and mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse~~
22 ~~services reform.~~
- 23 e. ~~The request improves the delivery of mental health, developmental~~
24 ~~disabilities, and substance abuse services in the counties affected by~~
25 ~~the waiver and also protects the health, safety, and welfare of~~
26 ~~individuals receiving these services.~~
- 27 d. The Department determines that the applicant possesses the
28 professional licensure, registration, or certification to qualify the
29 applicant as a professional whose scope of practice includes
30 diagnosing and documenting psychiatric or substance use disorders
31 and conducting mental status examinations to determine capacity to
32 give informed consent to treatment.
- 33 e. The applicant for certification has successfully completed the
34 Department's standardized training program for involuntary
35 commitment and has successfully passed the examination for that
36 program.
- 37 (3) ~~The Secretary shall evaluate the effectiveness, quality, and efficiency of~~
38 ~~mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services and~~
39 ~~protection of health, safety, and welfare under the waiver.~~
- 40 (4) ~~A waiver certification granted by the Secretary under this section shall be in~~
41 ~~effect for a period of up to three years and may be rescinded at any time~~
42 ~~within this period if the Secretary finds the LME certified individual has~~
43 ~~failed to meet the requirements of this section. Certification may be renewed~~
44 ~~every three years upon completion of a refresher training program approved~~
45 ~~by the Department.~~
- 46 (5) In no event shall the ~~substitution certification~~ of a licensed clinical social
47 worker, master's level ~~psychiatric nurse, nurse practitioner, licensed~~
48 ~~professional counselor, physician assistant, or master's level certified clinical~~
49 ~~addictions specialist under a waiver granted under this section be construed~~
50 ~~as authorization to expand the scope of practice of the licensed clinical social~~
51 ~~worker, the master's level psychiatric nurse, nurse practitioner, licensed~~

1 professional counselor, physician assistant, or the master's level certified
 2 clinical addictions specialist.

3 (6) The Department shall require that individuals ~~performing certified to~~
 4 perform initial examinations under the waiver ~~havethis section have~~
 5 successfully completed the Department's standardized involuntary
 6 commitment training program and examination. The Department shall
 7 maintain a list of these individuals on its Internet Web site.

8 (7) ~~As part of its waiver request, the LME shall document the availability of a~~
 9 ~~physician to provide backup support.~~

10 (7a) No less than annually, the Department shall submit a list of certified first
 11 commitment examiners to the Chief District Court Judge of each judicial
 12 district in North Carolina and maintain a current list of certified first
 13 commitment examiners on its Internet Web site.

14 (8) A master's level ~~certified licensed~~ clinical addiction specialist shall only be
 15 authorized to conduct the initial examination of individuals meeting the
 16 criteria of G.S. 122C-281(a).

17 (b) ~~The Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse~~
 18 ~~Services Department~~ shall expand its standardized certification training program to include
 19 refresher training for all certified providers performing initial examinations pursuant to
 20 subsection (a) of this section."

21 **SECTION 26.** G.S. 122C-264 reads as rewritten:

22 "**§ 122C-264. Duties of clerk of superior court and the district attorney.**

23 (a) Upon receipt of a ~~physician's or eligible psychologist's~~ commitment examiner's
 24 finding that the respondent meets the criteria of G.S. 122C-263(d)(1) and that outpatient
 25 commitment is recommended, the clerk of superior court of the county where the petition was
 26 initiated, upon direction of a district court judge, shall calendar the matter for hearing and shall
 27 notify the respondent, the proposed outpatient treatment physician or center, and the petitioner
 28 of the time and place of the hearing. The petitioner may file a written waiver of his right to
 29 notice under this subsection with the clerk of court.

30 (b) Upon receipt by the clerk of superior court pursuant to G.S. 122C-266(c) of a
 31 ~~physician's or eligible psychologist's~~ finding that a respondent meets the criteria of
 32 G.S. 122C-263(d)(2) and that inpatient commitment is recommended, the clerk of superior
 33 court of the county where the 24-hour facility is located shall, after determination required by
 34 G.S. 122C-261(c) and upon direction of a district court judge, assign counsel if necessary,
 35 calendar the matter for hearing, and notify the respondent, his counsel, and the petitioner of the
 36 time and place of the hearing. The petitioner may file a written waiver of his right to notice
 37 under this subsection with the clerk of court.

38 (b1) Upon receipt of a ~~physician's or eligible psychologist's~~ commitment examiner's
 39 certificate that a respondent meets the criteria of G.S. 122C-261(a) and that immediate
 40 hospitalization is needed pursuant to G.S. 122C-262, the clerk of superior court of the county
 41 where the treatment facility is located shall submit the certificate to the Chief District Court
 42 Judge. The court shall review the certificate within 24 hours, excluding Saturday, Sunday, and
 43 holidays, for a finding of reasonable grounds in accordance with 122C-261(b). The clerk shall
 44 notify the treatment facility of the court's findings by telephone and shall proceed as set forth in
 45 subsections (b), (c), and (f) of this section.

46"

47 **SECTION 27.** G.S. 122C-265 reads as rewritten:

48 "**§ 122C-265. Outpatient commitment; examination and treatment pending hearing.**

49 (a) If a respondent, who has been recommended for outpatient commitment by ~~an~~
 50 ~~examining physician or eligible psychologist~~ a commitment examiner different from the
 51 proposed outpatient treatment physician or center, fails to appear for examination by the

1 proposed outpatient treatment physician or center at the designated time, the physician or center
2 shall notify the clerk of superior court who shall issue an order to a law-enforcement officer or
3 other person authorized under G.S. 122C-251 to take the respondent into custody and take him
4 immediately to the outpatient treatment physician or center for evaluation. The custody order is
5 valid throughout the State. The law-enforcement officer may wait during the examination and
6 return the respondent to his home after the examination.

7 (b) The ~~examining physician commitment examiner~~ or the proposed outpatient
8 treatment physician or center may prescribe to the respondent reasonable and appropriate
9 medication and treatment that are consistent with accepted medical standards pending the
10 district court hearing.

11 (c) In no event may a respondent released on a recommendation that he or she meets
12 the outpatient commitment criteria be physically forced to take medication or forceably
13 detained for treatment pending a district court hearing.

14 (d) If at any time pending the district court hearing the outpatient treatment physician or
15 center determines that the respondent does not meet the criteria of G.S. 122C-263(d)(1), ~~he~~the
16 physician shall release the respondent and notify the clerk of court and the proceedings shall be
17 terminated.

18 (e) If a respondent becomes dangerous to ~~himself, self,~~ as defined in G.S. 122C-3(11)a.,
19 or others, as defined in G.S. 122C-3(11)b., pending a district court hearing on outpatient
20 commitment, new proceedings for involuntary inpatient commitment may be initiated.

21 (f) If an inpatient commitment proceeding is initiated pending the hearing for
22 outpatient commitment and the respondent is admitted to a 24-hour facility to be held for an
23 inpatient commitment hearing, notice shall be sent by the clerk of court in the county where the
24 respondent is being held to the clerk of court of the county where the outpatient commitment
25 was initiated and the outpatient commitment proceeding shall be terminated."

26 **SECTION 28.** G.S. 122C-266(a)(2) reads as rewritten:

27 "(2) If the physician finds that the respondent meets the criteria for outpatient
28 commitment under G.S. 122C-263(d)(1), the physician shall show these
29 findings on the physician's examination report, release the respondent
30 pending the district court hearing, and notify the clerk of superior court of
31 the county where the petition was initiated of these findings. In addition, the
32 examining physician shall show on the examination report the name,
33 address, and telephone number of the proposed outpatient treatment
34 physician or center. The physician shall contact the LME/MCO that serves
35 the county in which the respondent resides or that coordinated services for
36 the respondent to inform the LME/MCO that the respondent is being
37 recommended for outpatient commitment. The LME/MCO shall determine
38 whether the respondent is a client of the LME/MCO or eligible for services
39 through the LME/MCO and, if so, shall identify and schedule an
40 appointment with a proposed outpatient treatment physician or center and
41 provide the commitment examiner with the name, address, and telephone
42 number of the proposed outpatient treatment physician or center and the date
43 and time that the respondent has been scheduled for an appointment with the
44 outpatient treatment physician or center. The physician shall give the
45 respondent a written notice listing the name, address, and telephone number
46 of the proposed outpatient treatment physician or center and directing the
47 respondent to appear at that address at a specified date and time. The
48 examining physician before the appointment shall notify by telephone and
49 shall send a copy of the notice and the examination report to the proposed
50 outpatient treatment physician or center."

51 **SECTION 29.** G.S. 122C-267(c) reads as rewritten:

1 "(c) Certified copies of reports and findings of ~~physicians and psychologists~~commitment
2 examiners and medical records of previous and current treatment are admissible in evidence."

3 **SECTION 30.** G.S. 122C-268 reads as rewritten:

4 "**§ 122C-268. Inpatient commitment; district court hearing.**

5 (a) A hearing shall be held in district court within 10 days of the day the respondent is
6 taken into law enforcement custody pursuant to G.S. 122C-261(e) or G.S. 122C-262. If a
7 respondent temporarily detained under G.S. 122C-263(d)(2) is subject to a series of successive
8 custody orders issued pursuant to G.S. 122C-263(d)(2), the hearing shall be held within 10 days
9 after the day that the respondent is taken into custody under the most recent custody order. A
10 continuance of not more than five days may be granted upon motion ~~of~~ of any of the following:

11 (1) ~~The court;~~court.

12 (2) ~~Respondent's counsel; or~~counsel.

13 (3) The State, sufficiently in advance to avoid movement of the respondent.

14 ...

15 (f) Certified copies of reports and findings of ~~physicians and psychologists~~commitment
16 examiners and previous and current medical records are admissible in evidence, but the
17 respondent's right to confront and cross-examine witnesses may not be denied.

18 (g) ~~Hearings may~~ To the extent feasible, hearings shall be held in an appropriate room
19 not used for treatment of clients at the facility in which the respondent is being treated if it in a
20 manner approved by the chief district court judge if the facility is located within the presiding
21 judge's district court district as defined in G.S. 7A-133, by interactive videoconferencing
22 between a treatment facility and a courtroom, or G.S. 7A-133. Hearings may be held in the
23 judge's chambers. A hearing may not be held in a regular courtroom, over objection of the
24 respondent, if in the discretion of a judge a more suitable place is available. A hearing may be
25 held by audio and video transmission between the treatment facility and a courtroom in a
26 manner that allows (i) the judge and the respondent to see and hear each other and (ii) the
27 respondent to communicate fully and confidentially with the respondent's counsel during the
28 proceeding. Prior to any hearing held by audio and video transmission, the chief district court
29 judge shall submit to the Administrative Office of the Courts the procedures and type of
30 equipment for audio and video transmission for approval by the Administrative Office of the
31 Courts. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, if the respondent, through counsel,
32 objects to a hearing held by audio and video transmission, the hearing shall be held in the
33 physical presence of the presiding district court judge. Regardless of the manner and location
34 for hearings, hearings shall be held in a manner that complies with any applicable federal and
35 State laws governing the confidentiality and security of confidential information, including any
36 information transmitted from the treatment facility by audio and video transmission.

37"

38 **SECTION 31.** G.S. 122C-271 reads as rewritten:

39 "**§ 122C-271. Disposition.**

40 (a) ~~If an examining physician or eligible psychologist a~~ commitment examiner has
41 recommended outpatient commitment and the respondent has been released pending the district
42 court hearing, the court may make one of the following dispositions:

43 (1) If the court finds by clear, cogent, and convincing evidence that the
44 respondent is mentally ill; that he is capable of surviving safely in the
45 community with available supervision from family, friends, or others; that
46 based on respondent's treatment history, the respondent is in need of
47 treatment in order to prevent further disability or deterioration that would
48 predictably result in dangerousness as defined in G.S. 122C-3(11); and that
49 the respondent's current mental status or the nature of his illness limits or
50 negates his ability to make an informed decision to seek voluntarily or

- 1 comply with recommended treatment, it may order outpatient commitment
2 for a period not in excess of 90 days.
- 3 (2) If the court does not find that the respondent meets the criteria of
4 commitment set out in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the respondent
5 shall be discharged and the ~~facility at which he was last a client~~proposed
6 outpatient physician or center so notified.
- 7 (3) Before ordering any outpatient commitment under this subsection, the court
8 shall make findings of fact as to the availability of outpatient treatment from
9 an outpatient treatment physician or center that has agreed to accept the
10 respondent as a client of outpatient treatment services. The court shall show
11 on the order the outpatient treatment physician or center that is to be
12 responsible for the management and supervision of the respondent's
13 outpatient commitment. If the designated outpatient treatment physician or
14 center will be monitoring and supervising the respondent's outpatient
15 commitment pursuant to a contract for services with an LME/MCO, the
16 court shall show on the order the identity of the LME/MCO. The clerk of
17 court shall send a copy of the outpatient commitment order to the designated
18 outpatient treatment physician or center and to the respondent client or the
19 legally responsible person. If the designated outpatient treatment physician
20 or center will be monitoring and supervising the respondent's outpatient
21 commitment pursuant to a contract for services with an LME/MCO, the
22 clerk of court shall also send a copy of the order to that LME/MCO. Copies
23 of outpatient commitment orders sent by the clerk of court to an outpatient
24 treatment center or physician under this section, including orders sent to an
25 LME/MCO, shall be sent by the most reliable and expeditious means, but in
26 no event less than 48 hours after the hearing.
- 27 (b) If the respondent has been held in a 24-hour facility pending the district court
28 hearing pursuant to G.S. 122C-268, the court may make one of the following dispositions:
- 29 (1) If the court finds by clear, cogent, and convincing evidence that the
30 respondent is mentally ill; that the respondent is capable of surviving safely
31 in the community with available supervision from family, friends, or others;
32 that based on respondent's psychiatric history, the respondent is in need of
33 treatment in order to prevent further disability or deterioration that would
34 predictably result in dangerousness as defined by G.S. 122C-3(11); and that
35 the respondent's current mental status or the nature of the respondent's illness
36 limits or negates the respondent's ability to make an informed decision
37 voluntarily to seek or comply with recommended treatment, it may order
38 outpatient commitment for a period not in excess of 90 days. If the
39 commitment proceedings were initiated as the result of the respondent's
40 being charged with a violent crime, including a crime involving an assault
41 with a deadly weapon, and the respondent was found incapable of
42 proceeding, the commitment order shall so show.
- 43 (2) If the court finds by clear, cogent, and convincing evidence that the
44 respondent is mentally ill and is dangerous to self, as defined in
45 G.S. 122C-3(11)a., or others, as defined in G.S. 122C-3(11)b., it may order
46 inpatient commitment at a 24-hour facility described in G.S. 122C-252 for a
47 period not in excess of 90 days. However, no respondent found to be both
48 mentally retarded and mentally ill may be committed to a State, area or
49 private facility for the mentally retarded. An individual who is mentally ill
50 and dangerous to self, as defined in G.S. 122C-3(11)a., or others, as defined
51 in G.S. 122C-3(11)b., may also be committed to a combination of inpatient

1 and outpatient commitment at both a 24-hour facility and an outpatient
2 treatment physician or center for a period not in excess of 90 days. If the
3 commitment proceedings were initiated as the result of the respondent's
4 being charged with a violent crime, including a crime involving an assault
5 with a deadly weapon, and the respondent was found incapable of
6 proceeding, the commitment order shall so show. If the court orders
7 inpatient commitment for a respondent who is under an outpatient
8 commitment order, the outpatient commitment is terminated; and the clerk
9 of the superior court of the county where the district court hearing is held
10 shall send a notice of the inpatient commitment to the clerk of superior court
11 where the outpatient commitment was being supervised.

12 (3) If the court does not find that the respondent meets either of the commitment
13 criteria set out in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, the respondent
14 shall be discharged, and the facility in which the respondent was last a client
15 so notified.

16 (4) Before ordering any outpatient commitment, ~~the court shall make findings of~~
17 ~~fact as to the availability of outpatient treatment. The court shall also show~~
18 ~~on the order the outpatient treatment physician or center who is to be~~
19 ~~responsible for the management and supervision of the respondent's~~
20 ~~outpatient commitment. When an outpatient commitment order is issued for~~
21 ~~a respondent held in a 24-hour facility, the court may order the respondent~~
22 ~~held at the facility for no more than 72 hours in order for the facility to~~
23 ~~notify the designated outpatient treatment physician or center of the~~
24 ~~treatment needs of the respondent including any combination of inpatient~~
25 ~~and outpatient commitment, the 24-hour facility shall identify for the court~~
26 ~~an outpatient treatment physician or center that meets all of the following~~
27 ~~criteria:~~

28 a. Has participated in discharge planning for the respondent.

29 b. Has agreed to accept the respondent as a client of outpatient
30 treatment services.

31 c. Has scheduled the respondent for an outpatient appointment to take
32 place no later than seven days after the respondent's discharge from
33 the 24-hour facility.

34 The court shall make findings of fact as to the availability of an outpatient
35 treatment physician or center that has met the conditions of this subsection.
36 If the respondent is a client of an LME/MCO or eligible for services through
37 an LME/MCO, and before the court orders any outpatient commitment, the
38 LME/MCO shall participate in the respondent's discharge planning and
39 assist the 24-hour facility in identifying an outpatient treatment physician or
40 center that is able to comply with the provisions of this subsection. The court
41 shall show on the order the outpatient treatment physician or center who is
42 responsible for the management and supervision of the respondent's
43 outpatient commitment. If the treatment center or physician shall be
44 providing outpatient treatment services to the respondent pursuant to a
45 contract for services with an LME/MCO, the order shall also show the
46 LME/MCO. The clerk of court in the county where the facility is located
47 shall send a copy of the outpatient commitment order to the designated
48 outpatient treatment physician or center and to the respondent or the
49 legally responsible person. If the designated outpatient treatment physician
50 or center shall be monitoring and supervising the respondent's outpatient
51 commitment pursuant to a contract for services with an LME/MCO, the

1 clerk of court shall also send a copy of the order to the LME/MCO. Copies
2 of outpatient commitment orders sent by the clerk of court to an outpatient
3 treatment center or physician pursuant to this subdivision, including orders
4 sent to an LME/MCO, shall be sent by the most reliable and expeditious
5 means, but in no event less than 48 hours after the hearing. If the outpatient
6 commitment will be supervised in a county other than the county where the
7 commitment originated, the court shall order venue for further court
8 proceedings to be transferred to the county where the outpatient commitment
9 will be supervised. Upon an order changing venue, the clerk of superior
10 court in the county where the commitment originated shall transfer the file to
11 the clerk of superior court in the county where the outpatient commitment is
12 to be supervised.

13 (c) If the respondent was found not guilty by reason of insanity and has been held in a
14 24-hour facility pending the court hearing held pursuant to G.S. 122C-268.1, the court may
15 make one of the following dispositions:

- 16 (1) If the court finds that the respondent has not proved by a preponderance of
17 the evidence that he no longer has a mental illness or that he is no longer
18 dangerous to others, it shall order inpatient treatment at a 24-hour facility for
19 a period not to exceed 90 days.
- 20 (2) If the court finds that the respondent has proven by a preponderance of the
21 evidence that he no longer has a mental illness or that he is no longer
22 dangerous to others, the court shall order the respondent discharged and
23 released."

24 **SECTION 32.** G.S. 122C-276(c) reads as rewritten:

25 "(c) Subject to the provisions of G.S. 122C-269(c), rehearings shall be held ~~at the facility~~
26 ~~in which the respondent is receiving treatment.~~ as authorized in G.S. 122C-268(g). The judge is
27 a judge of the district court of the district court district as defined in G.S. 7A-133 in which the
28 facility is located or a district court judge temporarily assigned to that district."

29 **SECTION 33.** G.S. 122C-281 reads as rewritten:

30 **"§ 122C-281. Affidavit and petition before clerk or magistrate; custody order.**

31 (a) Any individual who has knowledge of a substance abuser who is dangerous to
32 ~~himself self~~ or others may appear before a clerk or assistant or deputy clerk of superior court or
33 a magistrate, execute an affidavit to this effect, and petition the clerk or magistrate for issuance
34 of an order to take the respondent into custody for examination by a ~~physician or eligible~~
35 ~~psychologist commitment examiner.~~ The affidavit shall include the facts on which the affiant's
36 opinion is based. Jurisdiction under this subsection is in the clerk or magistrate in the county
37 where the respondent resides or is found.

38 (b) If the clerk or magistrate finds reasonable grounds to believe that the facts alleged in
39 the affidavit are true and that the respondent is probably a substance abuser and dangerous to
40 ~~himself self~~ or others, ~~he the clerk or magistrate~~ shall issue an order to a ~~law enforcement~~
41 ~~enforcement~~ officer or any other person authorized by G.S. 122C-251 to take the respondent
42 into custody for examination by a ~~physician or eligible psychologist commitment examiner.~~

43 (c) If the clerk or magistrate issues a custody order, ~~he the clerk or magistrate~~ shall also
44 make inquiry in any reliable way as to whether the respondent is indigent within the meaning of
45 G.S. 7A-450. A magistrate shall report the result of this inquiry to the clerk.

46 (d) If the affiant is a ~~physician or eligible psychologist commitment examiner who has~~
47 ~~examined the respondent,~~ he or she may execute the affidavit before any official authorized to
48 administer oaths. ~~He The commitment examiner~~ is not required to appear before the clerk or
49 magistrate for this purpose. ~~His The commitment examiner's~~ examination shall comply with the
50 requirements of the initial examination as provided in G.S. 122C-283(c). Such affiant shall file
51 the affidavit and examination findings with the clerk of court in the manner described in

1 G.S. 122C-261(d)(1). If the physician or eligible psychologist commitment examiner
2 recommends commitment and the clerk or magistrate finds probable cause to believe that the
3 respondent meets the criteria for commitment, he the clerk or magistrate shall issue an order to
4 a law enforcement officer or other person designated under G.S. 122C-251(g) to take the
5 respondent into custody for transportation to or custody at a 24-hour facility or release the
6 respondent, facility; or if the respondent is released pending hearing, as described in
7 G.S. 122C-283(d)(1). G.S. 122C-283(d)(1), order that a hearing be held as provided in
8 G.S. 122C-284(a). If a physician or eligible psychologist executes an affidavit for commitment
9 of a respondent, a second qualified professional shall perform the examination required by
10 G.S. 122C-285.

11 (e) Upon receipt of the custody order of the clerk or magistrate, a ~~law enforcement~~law
12 ~~enforcement~~ officer or other person designated in the order shall take the respondent into
13 custody within 24 hours after the order is signed. The custody order is valid throughout the
14 State.

15 (e1) No commitment examiner, area facility, acute care hospital, general hospital, or
16 other site of first examination, or their officials, staff, employees, or other individuals
17 responsible for the custody, examination, detention, management, supervision, treatment, or
18 release of an individual examined for commitment and who follows accepted professional
19 judgment, standards, and practice, shall be held liable in any civil or criminal action for taking
20 reasonable measures to temporarily detain an individual for the period of time necessary to
21 complete a commitment examination, submit an affidavit to the magistrate or clerk of court,
22 and await the issuance of a custody order as authorized by subsection (d) of this section, as long
23 as the commitment examiner has a reasonable and good-faith belief that detention pending the
24 examination and issuance of a custody order is necessary to protect the individual or others
25 from bodily harm or life endangerment. If the individual is temporarily detained under the
26 circumstances described in this subsection, the commitment examiner shall certify in the
27 affidavit delivered to the clerk or magistrate in accordance with subdivision (d)(1) of this
28 section the reason the individual requires temporary detention pending the issuance of a
29 custody order.

30 (f) ~~When a petition is filed for an individual who is a resident of a single portal area,~~
31 ~~the procedures for examination by a physician or eligible psychologist as set forth in~~
32 ~~G.S. 122C-283(c) shall be carried out in accordance with the area plan. When an individual~~
33 ~~from a single portal area is presented for commitment at a facility directly, he may be accepted~~
34 ~~for admission in accordance with G.S. 122C-285. The facility shall notify the area authority~~
35 ~~within 24 hours of admission and further planning of treatment for the individual is the joint~~
36 ~~responsibility of the area authority and the facility as prescribed in the area plan."~~

37 **SECTION 34.** G.S. 122C-282 reads as rewritten:

38 "**§ 122C-282. Special emergency procedure for violent individuals.**

39 When an individual subject to commitment under the provisions of this Part is also violent
40 and requires restraint and when delay in taking ~~him the individual~~ to a ~~physician or eligible~~
41 ~~psychologist commitment examiner~~ for examination would likely endanger life or property, a
42 ~~law enforcement~~law enforcement officer may take the person into custody and take him or her
43 immediately before a magistrate or clerk. The ~~law enforcement~~law enforcement officer shall
44 execute the affidavit required by G.S. 122C-281 and in addition shall swear that the respondent
45 is violent and requires restraint and that delay in taking the respondent to a ~~physician or eligible~~
46 ~~psychologist commitment examiner~~ for an examination would endanger life or property.

47 If the clerk or magistrate finds by clear, cogent, and convincing evidence that the facts
48 stated in the affidavit are true, that the respondent is in fact violent and requires restraint, and
49 that delay in taking the respondent to a ~~physician or eligible psychologist commitment examiner~~
50 for an examination would endanger life or property, ~~he the clerk or magistrate~~ shall order the

1 ~~law enforcement~~law enforcement officer to take the respondent directly to a 24-hour facility
2 described in G.S. 122C-252.

3 Respondents received at a 24-hour facility under the provisions of this section shall be
4 examined and processed thereafter in the same way as all other respondents under this Part."

5 **SECTION 35.** G.S. 122C-283 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 122C-283. Duties of law-enforcement officer; first examination by ~~physician or eligible~~
7 ~~psychologist; commitment examiner.~~**

8 (a) Without unnecessary delay after assuming custody, the law-enforcement officer or
9 the individual designated by the clerk or magistrate under G.S. 122C-251(g) to provide
10 transportation shall take the respondent to an area facility identified by the LME/MCO in the
11 crisis services plan adopted pursuant to G.S. 122C-202.2 for examination by a ~~physician or~~
12 ~~eligible psychologist; if a physician or eligible psychologist~~commitment examiner. If the area
13 facility identified in the plan or one of the facility's commitment examiners is not available in
14 the area facility, ~~he~~available, the person designated to provide transportation shall take the
15 respondent to any ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~ locally available. If a ~~physician or eligible~~
16 psychologist is not immediately available, the respondent may be temporarily detained in an
17 area facility if one is available; if an area facility is not available, he may be detained under
18 appropriate supervision, in his home, other area facility or an acute care hospital as identified
19 and provided in the LME/MCO's community crisis services plan adopted pursuant to
20 G.S. 122C-202.2. If no identified facility or hospital is available, the respondent shall be
21 transported to any commitment examiner available in a private hospital or a clinic, or in a
22 general ~~hospital,~~hospital. If a commitment examiner is not available in an area facility or acute
23 care hospital, the respondent may be temporarily detained under appropriate supervision in the
24 area facility or hospital but not in a jail or other penal facility.

25 (a1) An area facility that is identified by the LME/MCO in accordance with
26 G.S. 122C-202.2 as a site for conducting first examinations under subsection (a) of this section
27 shall be capable of performing a medical screening examination of the respondent that consists
28 of a history and physical appropriate to the respondent's complaint or condition, with ancillary
29 testing as necessary. The medical screening examination shall be conducted by a physician or
30 other individual who is determined by the area facility to be qualified to perform the medical
31 screening and is practicing within the scope of his or her licensure. The respondent may either
32 be in the physical face-to-face presence of the medical screening examiner or may be examined
33 utilizing telemedicine equipment and procedures. If the area facility in subsection (a) of this
34 section determines that an individual qualified to perform a medical screening examination
35 appropriate to the respondent's complaint or condition is not available on-site or via
36 telemedicine, the area facility shall identify and contact another area facility that is capable of
37 performing the medical screening, or an acute care hospital, and the law enforcement officer or
38 other designated person shall transport the respondent to the identified facility or hospital.

39 (a2) The responsible professional at an area facility or other site of first examination may
40 transfer a respondent to an acute care hospital for emergency medical treatment, emergency
41 medical evaluation, emergency surgery, or other medical treatment that the site of first
42 examination is unable to provide by directing the law enforcement officer or other person
43 designated under G.S. 122C-251(g) to transport the respondent to an identified acute care
44 hospital. When the respondent is transferred solely for medical reasons, the original facility
45 shall accept the return of the respondent and the respondent shall be returned to the original
46 facility after the medical care is completed unless the responsible professionals at both facilities
47 concur that the respondent no longer meets the criteria for commitment and recommend that the
48 commitment proceedings be terminated. Any decision to terminate the proceedings shall be
49 documented and reported to the clerk of superior court in accordance with subsection (e) of this
50 section.

1 (b) The examination set forth in subsection (a) of this section is not required ~~if~~under
2 either of the following circumstances:

3 (1) The affiant who obtained the custody order is a ~~physician or eligible~~
4 ~~psychologist; or~~commitment examiner.

5 (2) The respondent is in custody under the special emergency procedure
6 described in G.S. 122C-282.

7 In these cases when it is recommended that the respondent be detained in a 24-hour facility, the
8 law-enforcement officer shall take the respondent directly to a 24-hour facility described in
9 G.S. 122C-252.

10 (c) The ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~commitment examiner described in subsection
11 (a) of this section shall examine the respondent as soon as possible, and in any event within 24
12 hours, after the respondent is presented for examination. The examination shall include but is
13 not limited to an assessment of the respondent's:

14 (1) Current and previous substance abuse including, if available, previous
15 treatment history; and

16 (2) Dangerousness to himself or others as defined in G.S. 122C-3(11).

17 (d) After the conclusion of the ~~examination~~examination, the ~~physician or eligible~~
18 ~~psychologist~~commitment examiner shall make the following determinations:

19 (1) If the ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~commitment examiner finds that the
20 respondent is a substance abuser and is dangerous to ~~himself~~self or others,
21 ~~he~~the commitment examiner shall recommend commitment and whether the
22 respondent should be released or be held at a 24-hour facility pending
23 hearing and shall so show on [the] his examination report. Based on the
24 ~~physician's or eligible psychologist's~~commitment examiner's
25 ~~recommendation~~recommendation, the ~~law enforcement~~law enforcement
26 officer or other designated individual shall take the respondent to a 24-hour
27 facility described in G.S. 122C-252 or release the respondent. If a 24-hour
28 facility is not immediately available or medically appropriate, the respondent
29 may be temporarily detained under appropriate supervision and the
30 procedures described in G.S. 122C-263(d)(2) shall apply.

31 (2) If the ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~commitment examiner finds that the
32 condition described in subdivision (1) of this subsection does not exist, the
33 respondent shall be released and the proceedings terminated.

34 (e) The findings of the ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~commitment examiner and the
35 facts on which they are based shall be in writing in all cases. A copy of the findings shall be
36 sent to the clerk of superior court by the most reliable and expeditious means. If it cannot be
37 reasonably anticipated that the clerk will receive the copy within 48 hours ~~of~~after the time that
38 it was signed, the ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~commitment examiner shall also
39 communicate ~~his~~the findings to the clerk by telephone."

40 **SECTION 36.** G.S. 122C-284 reads as rewritten:

41 "**§ 122C-284. Duties of clerk of superior court.**

42 (a) Upon receipt by the clerk of superior court of a ~~physician's or eligible psychologist's~~
43 finding made by a commitment examiner or other qualified professional pursuant to
44 G.S. 122C-285(c) that a respondent is a substance abuser and dangerous to ~~himself~~self or
45 others and that commitment is recommended, the clerk of superior court of the county where
46 the facility is located, if the respondent is held in a 24-hour facility, or the clerk of superior
47 court where the petition was initiated shall upon direction of a district court judge assign
48 counsel, calendar the matter for hearing, and notify the respondent, ~~his~~respondent's counsel,
49 and the petitioner of the time and place of the hearing. The petitioner may file a written waiver
50 of ~~his~~the right to notice under this subsection with the clerk of court.

1 (b) Notice to the respondent required by subsection (a) of this section shall be given as
2 provided in G.S. 1A-1, Rule 4(j) at least 72 hours before the hearing. Notice to other
3 individuals shall be given by mailing at least 72 hours before the hearing a copy by first-class
4 mail postage prepaid to the individual at his or her last known address. G.S. 1A-1, Rule 6 shall
5 not apply.

6 (c) Upon receipt of notice that transportation is necessary to take a committed
7 respondent to a 24-hour facility pursuant to G.S. 122C-290(b), the clerk shall issue a custody
8 order for the respondent.

9 (d) The clerk of superior court shall upon the direction of a district court judge calendar
10 all hearings, supplemental hearings, and rehearings and provide all notices required by this
11 Part."

12 **SECTION 37.** G.S. 122C-285 reads as rewritten:

13 "**§ 122C-285. Commitment; second examination and treatment pending hearing.**

14 (a) Within 24 hours of arrival at a 24-hour facility described in G.S. 122C-252, the
15 respondent shall be examined by a qualified professional. This professional shall be a physician
16 if the initial commitment evaluation was conducted by ~~an eligible psychologist~~a commitment
17 examiner who is not a physician. The examination shall include the assessment specified in
18 G.S. 122C-283(c). If the physician or qualified professional finds that the respondent is a
19 substance abuser and is dangerous to ~~himself~~self or others, ~~he~~the physician or qualified
20 professional shall hold and treat the respondent at the facility or designate other treatment
21 pending the district court hearing. If the physician or qualified professional finds that the
22 respondent does not meet the criteria for commitment under G.S. 122C-283(d)(1), ~~he~~the
23 physician or qualified professional shall release the respondent and the proceeding shall be
24 terminated. In this case the reasons for the release shall be reported in writing to the clerk of
25 superior court of the county in which the custody order originated. If the respondent is released,
26 the ~~law enforcement~~law enforcement officer or other person designated to provide
27 transportation shall return the respondent to the originating county.

28 (b) If the 24-hour facility described in G.S. 122C-252 is the facility in which the first
29 examination by a ~~physician or eligible psychologist~~commitment examiner occurred and is the
30 same facility in which the respondent is held, the second examination must occur not later than
31 the following regular working day.

32 (c) The findings of the physician or qualified professional along with the facts on which
33 they are based shall be made in writing in all cases. A copy of the written findings shall be sent
34 to the clerk of superior court by reliable and expeditious means."

35 **SECTION 38.** G.S. 122C-286 reads as rewritten:

36 "**§ 122C-286. Commitment; district court hearing.**

37 (a) A hearing shall be held in district court within 10 days of the day the respondent is
38 taken into custody. If a respondent temporarily detained under G.S. 122C-263(d)(2) is subject
39 to a series of successive custody orders issued pursuant to G.S. 122C-263(d)(2), the hearing
40 shall be held within 10 days after the day the respondent is taken into custody under the most
41 recent custody order. Upon its own motion or upon motion of the responsible professional, the
42 respondent, or the State, the court may grant a continuance of not more than five days.

43 (b) The respondent shall be present at the ~~hearing~~hearing unless the respondent,
44 through counsel, submits a written waiver of personal appearance. A subpoena may be issued
45 to compel the respondent's presence at a hearing. The petitioner and the responsible
46 professional of the area ~~authority~~facility or the proposed treating physician or ~~his~~a designee of
47 the proposed treating physician may be present and may provide testimony.

48 (c) Certified copies of reports and findings of ~~physicians and psychologists~~physicians,
49 psychologists, and other commitment examiners and medical records of previous and current
50 treatment are admissible in evidence, but the respondent's right to confront and cross-examine
51 witnesses shall not be denied.

1 (d) The respondent may be represented by counsel of his-choice. If the respondent is
2 indigent within the meaning of G.S. 7A-450, counsel shall be appointed to represent the
3 respondent in accordance with rules adopted by the Office of Indigent Defense Services.

4 (e) Hearings may be held at a facility if it is located within the judge's district court
5 district as defined in G.S. 7A-133 or in the judge's chambers. A hearing may not be held in a
6 regular courtroom, over objection of the respondent, if in the discretion of a judge a more
7 suitable place is available.

8 (f) The hearing shall be closed to the public unless the respondent requests otherwise.
9 The hearing for a respondent being held at a 24-hour facility shall be held in a location and in
10 the manner provided in G.S. 122C-268(g).

11 (g) A copy of all documents admitted into evidence and a transcript of the proceedings
12 shall be furnished to the respondent on request by the clerk upon the direction of a district court
13 judge. If the respondent is indigent, the copies shall be provided at State expense.

14 (h) To support a commitment order, the court shall find by clear, cogent, and
15 convincing evidence that the respondent meets the criteria specified in G.S. 122C-283(d)(1).
16 The court shall record the facts that support its findings and shall show on the order the area
17 ~~authority-facility~~ or physician who is responsible for the management and supervision of the
18 respondent's treatment."

19 **SECTION 39.** G.S. 122C-287 reads as rewritten:

20 **"§ 122C-287. Disposition.**

21 The court may make one of the following dispositions:

22 (1) If the court finds by clear, cogent, and convincing evidence that the
23 respondent is a substance abuser and is dangerous to ~~himself-self~~ or others, it
24 shall order for a period not in excess of 180 days commitment to and
25 treatment by an area ~~authority-facility~~ or physician who is responsible for the
26 management and supervision of the respondent's commitment and treatment.
27 Before ordering commitment to and treatment by an area facility or a
28 physician who is not a physician at an inpatient facility, the court shall
29 follow the procedures specified in G.S. 122C-271(a)(3) and
30 G.S. 122C-271(b)(4), as applicable. The court shall not order commitment to
31 an area facility unless the respondent is eligible for services at the area
32 facility through an LME/MCO or otherwise qualifies for the provision of
33 services offered by the provider.

34 (2) If the court finds that the respondent does not meet the commitment criteria
35 set out in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the respondent shall be
36 discharged and the facility in which he was last treated so notified."

37 **SECTION 40.** G.S. 122C-290 reads as rewritten:

38 **"§ 122C-290. Duties for follow-up on commitment order.**

39 (a) The area ~~authority-facility~~ or physician responsible for management and supervision
40 of the respondent's commitment and treatment may prescribe or administer to the respondent
41 reasonable and appropriate treatment either on an outpatient basis or in a 24-hour facility.

42 (b) If the respondent whose treatment is provided on an outpatient basis fails to comply
43 with all or part of the prescribed treatment after reasonable effort to solicit the respondent's
44 compliance or whose treatment is provided on an inpatient basis is discharged in accordance
45 with G.S. 122C-205.1(b), the area ~~authority-facility~~ or physician may request the clerk or
46 magistrate to order the respondent taken into custody for the purpose of examination. Upon
47 receipt of this request, the clerk or magistrate shall issue an order to a law enforcement officer
48 to take the respondent into custody and to take him immediately to the designated area
49 ~~authority-facility~~ or physician for examination. The custody order is valid throughout the State.
50 The law enforcement officer shall turn the respondent over to the custody of the physician or
51 area ~~authority-facility~~ who shall conduct the examination and release the respondent or have the

1 respondent taken to a 24-hour facility upon a determination that treatment in the facility will
2 benefit the respondent. Transportation to the 24-hour facility shall be provided as specified in
3 G.S. 122C-251, upon notice to the clerk or magistrate that transportation is necessary, or as
4 provided in G.S. 122C-408(b). If placement in a 24-hour facility is to exceed 45 consecutive
5 days, the area ~~authority-facility~~ or physician shall notify the clerk of court by the 30th day and
6 request a supplemental hearing as specified in G.S. 122C-291.

7 (c) If the respondent intends to move or moves to another county within the State, the
8 area ~~authority-facility~~ or physician shall notify the clerk of court in the county where the
9 commitment is being supervised and request that a supplemental hearing be calendared.

10 (d) If the respondent moves to another state or to an unknown location, the designated
11 area ~~authority-facility~~ or physician shall notify the clerk of superior court of the county where
12 the commitment is supervised and the commitment shall be terminated."

13 **SECTION 41.** G.S. 122C-291 reads as rewritten:

14 "**§ 122C-291. Supplemental hearings.**

15 (a) Upon receipt of a request for a supplemental hearing, the clerk shall calendar a
16 hearing to be held within 14 days and notify, at least 72 hours before the hearing, the petitioner,
17 the respondent, his attorney, if any, and the designated area ~~authority-facility~~ or physician.
18 Notice shall be provided in accordance with G.S. 122C-284(b). The procedures for the hearing
19 shall follow G.S. 122C-286.

20 (b) At the supplemental hearing for a respondent who has moved or may move to
21 another county, the court shall determine if the respondent meets the criteria for commitment
22 set out in G.S. 122C-283(d)(1). If the court determines that the respondent no longer meets the
23 criteria for commitment, it shall discharge the respondent from the order and dismiss the case.
24 If the court determines that the respondent continues to meet the criteria for commitment, it
25 shall continue the commitment but shall designate an area ~~authority-facility~~ or physician at the
26 respondent's new residence to be responsible for the management or supervision of the
27 respondent's commitment. The court shall order the respondent to appear for treatment at the
28 address of the newly designated area ~~authority-facility~~ or physician and shall order venue for
29 further court proceedings under the commitment to be transferred to the new county of
30 supervision. Upon an order changing venue, the clerk of court in the county where the
31 commitment has been supervised shall transfer the records regarding the commitment to the
32 clerk of court in the county where the commitment will be supervised. Also, the clerk of court
33 in the county where the commitment has been supervised shall send a copy of the court's order
34 directing the continuation of treatment under new supervision to the newly designated area
35 ~~authority-facility~~ or physician.

36 (c) At a supplemental hearing for a respondent to be held longer than 45 consecutive
37 days in a 24-hour facility, the court shall determine if the respondent meets the criteria for
38 commitment set out in G.S. 122C-283(d)(1). If the court determines that the respondent
39 continues to meet the criteria and that further treatment in the 24-hour facility is necessary, the
40 court may authorize continued care in the facility for not more than 90 days, after which a
41 rehearing for the purpose of determining the need for continued care in the 24-hour facility
42 shall be held, or the court may order the respondent released from the 24-hour facility and
43 continued on the commitment on an outpatient basis. If the court determines that the respondent
44 no longer meets the criteria for commitment the respondent shall be released and his case
45 dismissed.

46 (d) At any time during the term of commitment order, a respondent may apply to the
47 court for a supplemental hearing for the purpose of discharge from the order. The application
48 shall be made in writing to the clerk of superior court. At the supplemental hearing the court
49 shall determine whether the respondent continues to meet the criteria for commitment. The
50 court may reissue or change the commitment order or discharge the respondent and dismiss the
51 case."

1 **SECTION 42.** G.S. 122C-292 reads as rewritten:

2 "**§ 122C-292. Rehearings.**

3 (a) Fifteen days before the end of the initial or subsequent periods of commitment if the
4 area ~~authority-facility~~ or physician determines that the respondent continues to meet the criteria
5 specified in G.S. 122C-283(d)(1), the clerk of superior court of the county where commitment
6 is supervised shall be notified. The clerk, at least 10 days before the end of the commitment
7 period, on order of the district court, shall calendar the rehearing. If the respondent no longer
8 meets the criteria, the area ~~authority-facility~~ or physician shall so notify the clerk who shall
9 dismiss the case.

10 (b) Rehearings are governed by the same notice and procedures as initial hearings, and
11 the respondent has the same rights ~~he had~~ that were available to the respondent at the initial
12 hearing including the right to appeal.

13 (c) If the court finds that the respondent no longer meets the criteria of
14 G.S. 122C-283(d)(1), it shall unconditionally discharge him. A copy of the discharge order
15 shall be furnished by the clerk to the designated area ~~authority-facility~~ or physician. If the
16 respondent continues to meet the criteria of G.S. 122C-283(d)(1), the court may order
17 commitment for additional periods not in excess of 365 days each."

18 **SECTION 43.** G.S. 122C-293 reads as rewritten:

19 "**§ 122C-293. Release by area authority or physician.**

20 The area ~~authority-facility~~ or physician as designated in the order shall discharge a
21 committed respondent unconditionally at any time ~~he~~ the physician determines that the
22 respondent no longer meets the criteria of G.S. 122C-283(d)(1). Notice of discharge and the
23 reasons for the release shall be reported in writing to the clerk of superior court of the county in
24 which the commitment was ordered."

25 **SECTION 44.** G.S. 122C-294 reads as rewritten:

26 "**§ 122C-294. Local plan.**

27 Each area authority shall develop a local plan in accordance with G.S. 122C-202.2 with
28 local law-enforcement agencies, local courts, local hospitals, and ~~local medical societies~~ others
29 as necessary to facilitate implementation of this Part."

30 **SECTION 45.(a)** Each LME/MCO shall submit to the Department of Health and
31 Human Services a copy of its current community crisis services plan adopted pursuant to
32 G.S. 122C-202.2, as enacted by this act, by the earlier of (i) 12 months after the date the
33 Department receives notification that the federal Centers for Medicaid and Medicare has
34 approved all necessary waivers and State Plan amendments for Medicaid and NC Health
35 Choice transformation as provided for in S.L. 2015-245, as amended, or (ii) six months prior to
36 the date the Department actually initiates capitated contracts with Prepaid Health Plans, as
37 defined in Section 4 of S.L. 2015-245, as amended, for the delivery of Medicaid and NC Health
38 Choice services. The Department shall notify each LME/MCO when the earlier of these
39 conditions occurs.

40 **SECTION 45.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

41 **SECTION 46.** Except as otherwise provided, this act becomes effective December
42 1, 2017, and applies to proceedings initiated on or after that date.