

BY adding to

Article 59 - Mental Hygiene
Section 22 and 22A, to be under the amended subtitle
"Emergency Evaluations"
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1979 Replacement Volume and 1980 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article 59 - Mental Hygiene

Emergency [Admissions] EVALUATIONS

[22.

(a) As used in this subtitle, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated unless a contrary meaning is clearly intended from the context in which the term appears.

(1) "Emergency admissions" shall mean that process by which an emergency admittee is admitted on an emergency basis to an emergency facility as defined herein.

(2) "Emergency treatment" means the treatment of an emergency admittee under the provisions of this subtitle.

(3) "Emergency facility" shall mean any facility designated in writing by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene as an emergency facility, and shall include all general hospitals with licensed emergency rooms unless exempted by the Department in consultation with the local health officer.

(4) "Mental disorder" means the behavioral and other symptoms which to lay petitioner initiating the emergency admission process indicate a clear disturbance in the mental functioning of another person, and to a physician or certified psychologist conducting an examination indicate one or more of the mental disorders described in the "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual-Mental Disorders" published periodically by the American Psychiatric Association. The term shall not include mental retardation.

(5) "Peace officer" means a sheriff, State police officer, municipal or other local police officer.

(6) "Emergency admittee" means a person who is proposed for admission to an emergency facility, or a person who has been admitted to an emergency facility pursuant to this section.