

FORENSIC SUPPORT SERVICES

Forensic Support Services are administered under the Division of Comprehensive Psychiatric Services (CPS) for all DMH individual, regardless of their diagnosis. All psychiatric health centers have forensic supports services established to respond to court orders for services.

Forensic individuals are defined as those individuals who are court ordered and committed to the Department of Mental Health (1) for pretrial evaluation, both inpatient or outpatient; (2) as incompetent to proceed to trial; (3) as not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect for an indefinite period of time; (4) for monitoring by Department staff while on conditional release as ordered by the appropriate court. Chapter 552, Revised Statutes of Missouri, mandates that public safety be a strong consideration in the care and custody of such court committed individuals. The mission of Forensic Services is to evaluate, treat and monitor mentally ill or mentally retarded, developmentally disabled, criminally committed individuals so that they will be capable of community reintegration without posing a danger to themselves or others.

In order to be considered a forensic individual, the person is alleged to have committed a crime and as a result of mental disease or defect, the individual is ordered by a court into the care and custody of the Department of Mental Health. As a result of this court ordered status, there are specific procedures that are prescribed in Statute that must be strictly followed.

Service Coordinators Responsibility

An SC may be involved as part of the multidisciplinary team support a person with developmental disabilities who is receiving forensic support services. At admission to a CPS facility for these services, during the provision of these services, and in preparation for discharge, should that occur, the SC should know how to appropriately advocate for individuals keeping in mind that the provision of forensic services are provided under strict state law. The Regional Office will provide the necessary information to SCs who are working with forensic individuals.