



Police Response To Mental Health Emergencies

Police Response

- Primary Response Unit (uniform patrol officers)
 - Mobile Crisis Intervention Teams (MCIT)
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Police Action

- Secure the scene (make situation safe)
 - Ascertain whether or not a criminal act has been committed
 - Notify MCIT to attend
 - Referral to an appropriate mental health agency for treatment
or...
 - Apprehension under The Mental Health Act
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Patient Population

- Mood Disorders: (eg: Depression)
 - Psychotic Disorders: (eg: Schizophrenia)
 - Anxiety Disorders: (eg: Panic and Phobias)
 - Personality Disorders: (eg. Anti-social)
 - Others: Dual Diagnosis, Substance Abuse
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Police Apprehensions under The Mental Health Act

- Form 1: Application by a Physician for a Psychiatric Assessment
 - Form 2: Justice of the Peace Order for Examination
 - Form 9: Order for Return
 - Section 17: Apprehension by Police Officer
 - Form 47: Order for Examination under Community Treatment Order
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Section 17 Apprehension's

“Where a police officer has reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a person is acting or has acted in a disorderly manner and has reasonable grounds to believe that the person;...”

Section 17...

- has threatened or attempted or is threatening or attempting to cause bodily harm to himself or herself;
 - has behaved or is behaving violently towards another person or has caused or is causing another person to fear bodily harm from him or her; or
 - has shown or is showing a lack of competence to care for himself or herself,
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Section 17...

“and in addition the police officer is of the opinion that the person is apparently suffering from a mental disorder of a nature or quality that likely will result in;”

Section 17...

- serious bodily harm to the person;
 - serious bodily harm to another person; or
 - serious physical impairment of the person;
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Section 17...

“and that it would be dangerous to proceed under Section 16 (Justice of the Peace Order for Examination Form 2), the police officer may take the person in custody to an appropriate place for examination by a physician.”

Section 17

- There is no longer a requirement for a police officer to actually observe the person's behaviour and may use information obtained from a third party in order to form reasonable and probable grounds for apprehension.
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MCIT

(Mobile Crisis Intervention Team)

Teams consist of:

- Uniformed Police Constable
- Registered Nurse employed by the participating hospital



MCIT Mandate

- Enhance the quality of service delivered to persons who suffer from mental illness
 - Provide a secondary response to incoming calls for service, follow-up and referrals involving emotionally disturbed persons
 - Remove the individual from serious harm or any other problem...
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Mandate...

- Make an on site clinical assessment of the patient in their environment
 - Stabilize potentially volatile situations
 - Determine if person poses danger to self or others
 - Arrange an appropriate mental health treatment;

Referral to an appropriate agency or;

Apprehension under the Mental Health Act

Mandate...

Reduce the amount of time Primary Response Units (PRU) are required to retain custody of the emotionally disturbed person's in hospital

- Reduce repeat contact between police and mental health clients
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Current Programs

St Michael's Hospital (2 teams)

51 Division

52 Division

St Joseph's Hospital (2 teams)

11 Division

14 Division

Programs...

The Scarborough Hospital (3 teams)

41 Division

42 Division

43 Division

Teams...

Humber River Regional Hospital (2 teams)

12 Division

31 Division

Future Expansion

Negotiations are currently under way to expand to other hospitals within the City of Toronto.

Contact

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Community Mobilization

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