



# HOW DOES AN EMERGENCY DETENTION (ED) WORK?

Law enforcement takes the person into custody because they have reason to believe the person has a mental illness and is a danger to self or others

Police transport the person to a hospital/health facility (usually an ER)

Police consult with the county's crisis service provider to determine if an emergency detention is necessary

Does crisis services determine that detention is necessary?

**N**

Detention ends,  
and follow-up  
resources given

**Y**

Does the person agree to  
inpatient treatment?

**N**

Emergency  
detention  
continues

**Y**

Voluntary  
hospitalization

Person requests  
discharge or  
refuses treatment

**N**

Person is discharged  
from the hospital with  
a discharge plan

**Y**

Does person  
meet criteria?  
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Hospital treatment  
director initiates  
emergency detention.  
This is often referred to as a  
"treatment director's hold."

**Commitment  
Process Begins  
(see page 54)**