

IVC

INVOLUNTARY
COMMITMENT



www.greensboro-nc.gov/OCS

Overview

The Involuntary Commitment (IVC) process is when an individual can become ordered by a magistrate to receive a psychiatric evaluation. IVCs are granted by magistrates, and give law enforcement the power to take the individual into custody and transport them to a hospital for an evaluation.

At the hospital, the person is evaluated by a provider, who then decides whether to release the person or hold them for evaluation and treatment.

Here are a few things to consider if you believe someone needs IVC. First, the individual must meet the following criteria:

- ▶ 1. Must have a mental illness or a substance abuse disorder AND be dangerous to themselves or be dangerous to others.
- ▶ 2. The person must not be willing or able to voluntarily go to a hospital on their own for an evaluation.
- ▶ 3. The person must be showing the concerning behaviors in the present moment. *It can't be based on things that happened weeks, months or years ago. It is also important to "stick to the facts". Only tell the magistrate what is happening and not make assumptions, guesses, or exaggerate.*

Remember, the individual must be an IMMEDIATE danger to themselves or others. There should be a sense of urgency on the matter, and you should not wait very long. If you feel that the IVC "can wait until tomorrow", it is likely not urgent enough of an issue.

If you believe the individual meets the above criteria, you are encouraged to speak with a magistrate about them needing IVC.

The process for this is on the other side of this card.

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Process

1. Where to speak with a magistrate

Monday to Friday, 9 am to 4 pm
Guilford County Courthouse
201 South Eugene Street, Room 214
Greensboro, NC 27401

Outside of business hours
Guilford County Jail
201 South Edgeworth Street
Greensboro, NC 27401

2. At the magistrate's office...

- You must be at least 18 and show a photo ID.
- The magistrate will provide you with an IVC application. You are encouraged to give as much relevant information as possible. Be specific and detailed about why you are concerned.
- The magistrate will review this form and may ask you additional questions. You will be under oath when speaking to the magistrate.
- If the magistrate **agrees** that the individual is a danger, they will type the order, which you must sign as the petitioner.
- If the magistrate **disagrees** with your testimony, IVC will not be granted and the process ends here.

3. When the IVC is granted, police are notified and will get the IVC from the magistrate.

The IVC is active for 24 hours so police have time to locate, serve and transport the individual to the hospital.

4. Once located and served, the individual is transported to a hospital for an IVC First Exam, which takes place within 24 hours.

This decides whether the person will be held for treatment. Under IVC, the individual cannot leave the hospital until the doctor has deemed them safe and has completed the discharge.

Please note: NC does not have a "minimum hold time". The individual can be released within a matter of hours if not deemed a danger to self or others.