



North Carolina Involuntary Commitment Process



Layperson petition
Layperson completes petition in front of magistrate

Magistrate reviews petition & issues custody order

Officer transports respondent

Hospital ER or LME facility (1st exam)

Officer transports respondent

Clinician petition
Clinician completes petition & exam form (1st exam), then faxes to magistrate

Magistrate reviews petition & issues custody order

Officer transports respondent

24-hour facility (2nd exam)

Emergency petition*
Clinician completes exam form & emergency certificate (1st exam), submits to clerk of court for 24-hr. facility & local officer

Officer transports respondent pursuant to emergency certificate

District court judge reviews examination form

Hearing: Court orders release, outpatient, inpatient, or substance abuse commitment

*Use when respondent requires immediate hospitalization; procedure by-passes magistrate.