

Case Scenario

Mateo is 25 years old with a history of psychosis and PTSD for which he has been prescribed medication. He has a history of stopping his medication and relying on marijuana, stimulants, supplements, and multiple online prescription providers. He is unemployed and currently living alone in a hotel paid for by his family.

Ten days ago, Mateo stopped taking his medication for mental illness and began to experience visual and audio hallucinations. More recently, he ceased eating and bathing. He is increasingly suspicious of his family and thinks, based on a dream, that his stepfather is abusing his mother. He says he plans to cut his stepfather's throat when he sleeps.

During the past year, Mateo was taken into custody two times through the involuntary commitment process.

- Leading up to the first IVC case, he stopped taking his medication and a few days later got in his mother's car and drove erratically through the neighborhood, up into neighbors' yards where children live, crashing through bushes, narrowly missing large trees, and yelling "you better watch out!"
- His second IVC case began after he ceased taking his medication, began having visual and audio hallucinations, and the police found him wandering aimlessly in a busy roadway suffering dehydration and malnourishment requiring hospitalization.

In each IVC case, the magistrate and first examiner concluded that Mateo met the criteria for commitment. In each case, he proceeded to a 24-hour facility, where the second examiner concluded he met the inpatient commitment criteria. Each time, however, he was discharged before having a commitment hearing. No commitment order was issued.

➔ Mateo's mother files a petition for adjudication of incompetence and appointment of a guardian.

➔ Mateo's mother files a petition for involuntary commitment.