

1.2 Terminology Used in this Chapter

“Admission,” although not defined in the statutes, denotes the entrance of a person into a 24-hour facility through the voluntary action of the affected individual or of that individual’s legally responsible person. “Admission” to a 24- hour facility also occurs if approved after the second evaluation by a facility physician before the ten-day court hearing during involuntary commitment proceedings. *See infra* § 2.3K.

“Commitment,” although not defined by statute, is a legal status denoting the court-ordered treatment of a person for mental illness or substance abuse either on an inpatient basis in a 24-hour facility or on an outpatient basis.

“Legally Responsible Person” means: “(i) when applied to an adult, who has been adjudicated incompetent, a guardian; (ii) when applied to a minor, a parent, guardian, a person standing in loco parentis, or a legal custodian other than a parent who has been granted specific authority by law or in a custody order to consent for medical care, including psychiatric treatment; or (iii) when applied to an adult who is incapable . . . and who has not been adjudicated incompetent, a health care agent named pursuant to a valid health care power of attorney.” G.S. 122C-3(20).

“Respondent” is the person who is the subject of an involuntary commitment proceeding or who is admitted as a voluntary patient to a 24-hour facility by a legally responsible person.

“24-hour facility” is a facility providing around-the-clock treatment in a structured environment. G.S. 122C-3(14)g.