

1.4 Voluntary Admission

There are three types of voluntary inpatient admissions for either mental health or substance abuse treatment. The first is the admission of a competent adult on the individual's own application. As this is the only truly voluntary admission, no attorney representation is required and there is no judicial review. Discussion of this type of admission is included in this manual so that the attorney will be aware of it as a possible alternative for an involuntary client and because a voluntary admission may be part of a client's psychiatric history.

The following two types of admissions are also called "voluntary" in the statutes, but they are not truly voluntary on the part of the patient:

- voluntary admission of an incompetent adult, in which an adjudicated incompetent adult is admitted on application of the guardian of the person or general guardian; and
- voluntary admission of a minor, in which the admission application is signed by the legally responsible person for the minor.

Because someone other than the client signs the admission application, the statute provides for judicial review of the admission and for an appointed attorney for the individual.

For a discussion of voluntary admissions, including the dispositional alternatives for voluntary admissions, see *infra* Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 10.