

## 6.2 Terminology Used in this Chapter

“Legally responsible person” for a minor is “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.” N.C. GEN. STAT. § 122C-3(20)(ii) (hereinafter G.S.).

“Mental illness” as defined for a minor is “a mental condition, other than mental retardation alone, that so impairs the youth’s capacity to exercise age adequate self-control or judgment in the conduct of his activities and social relationships so that he is in need of treatment.” G.S. 122C-3(21).

“Qualified Physician’s Examination report (QPE)” is the term commonly used to refer to the Department of Health and Human Services form completed by an examining physician when prepared for use in court. *See infra* Appendix A, DMH form 5-73-01. It is forwarded to the clerk of court when involuntary commitment is recommended following the filing of a petition or when a rehearing on commitment is requested by the attending physician.

“Responsible professional” is the “individual within a facility who is designated by the facility director to be responsible for the care, treatment, habilitation, or rehabilitation of a specific client and who is eligible to provide care, treatment, habilitation, or rehabilitation relative to the client’s disability.” G.S. 122C-3(32).

“Substance abuse” is “the pathological use or abuse of alcohol or other drugs in a way or to a degree that produces an impairment in personal, social, or occupational functioning. ‘Substance abuse’ may include a pattern of tolerance and withdrawal.” G.S. 122C-3(36). There is no separate statutory definition of substance abuse applicable only to minors.

“Substance abuser” is “an individual who engages in substance abuse.” G.S. 122C-3(37).

“24-hour facility” is “a facility that provides a structured living environment and services for a period of 24 consecutive hours or more and includes hospitals that are facilities under [Chapter 122C of the North Carolina General Statutes].” G.S. 122C-3(14)g. A 24-hour facility includes by statutory definition a “‘residential facility’, which is a 24-hour facility that is not a hospital, including a group home.” G.S. 122C-3(14)e.