

## 6.3 Procedures for Admission and Discharge

### A. Application for Admission

The provisions governing the voluntary admission of competent adults apply to the voluntary admission of minors unless otherwise specified. G.S. 122C-221(a); *see infra* Chapter 10. The legally responsible person may seek to admit a minor by appearing at the 24-hour facility with the minor and signing a written application for admission. G.S. 122C-221(a), 122C-211(a). An evaluation must be conducted to determine if the minor is in need of treatment or further evaluation for mental illness or substance abuse at the facility. *Id.*; *see infra* Appendix A, Form DMH 5-73-01.

A private physician or facility is not required to accept the minor for treatment or evaluation. G.S. 122C-209. A voluntary application for admission of a minor can be denied in the discretion of the physician or facility.

### B. Notice of Provision for 72-Hour Hold Upon Request for Discharge

The admitting facility must give written information setting forth the procedures for judicial review and discharge to both the legally responsible person and the minor before admission. G.S. 122C-224(b). This information must include that the minor may be held for up to seventy-two hours after a written request for discharge by the legally responsible person to allow the facility to initiate involuntary commitment procedures. *Id.*

### C. Notice to Clerk of Superior Court of Admission

The clerk of superior court in the county where the facility is located must be notified within twenty-four hours of the admission of the minor. G.S. 122C-224(c). The notice must request that a judicial hearing be scheduled and must supply the names and addresses of the legally responsible person and the responsible professional. *Id.*