

**RCW 71.34.720 Examination and evaluation of minor approved for inpatient admission—Referral to a secure withdrawal management and stabilization facility or substance use disorder treatment program—Right to communication, exception—Evaluation and treatment period. (Effective until July 1, 2026.)**

(1) Each minor approved by the facility for inpatient admission shall be examined and evaluated by a children's mental health specialist, for minors admitted as a result of a mental disorder, or by a substance use disorder professional or co-occurring disorder specialist, for minors admitted as a result of a substance use disorder, as to the child's mental condition and by a physician, physician assistant, or psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner as to the child's physical condition within twenty-four hours of admission. Reasonable measures shall be taken to ensure medical treatment is provided for any condition requiring immediate medical attention.

(2) If, at any time during the involuntary treatment hold and following the initial examination and evaluation, the children's mental health specialist or substance use disorder specialist and the physician, physician assistant, or psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner determine that the initial needs of the minor, if detained to an evaluation and treatment facility, would be better served by placement in a secure withdrawal management and stabilization facility or approved substance use disorder treatment program or, if detained to a secure withdrawal management and stabilization facility or approved substance use disorder treatment program, would be better served in an evaluation and treatment facility, then the minor shall be referred to the more appropriate placement for the remainder of the current commitment period without any need for further court review; however a minor may only be referred to a secure withdrawal management and stabilization facility or approved substance use disorder treatment program if there is a secure withdrawal management and stabilization facility or approved substance use disorder treatment program available and that has adequate space for the minor.

(3) The admitting facility shall take reasonable steps to notify immediately the minor's parent of the admission.

(4) During the initial one hundred twenty hour treatment period, the minor has a right to associate or receive communications from parents or others unless the professional person in charge determines that such communication would be seriously detrimental to the minor's condition or treatment and so indicates in the minor's clinical record, and notifies the minor's parents of this determination. A minor must not be denied the opportunity to consult an attorney unless there is an immediate risk of harm to the minor or others.

(5) If the evaluation and treatment facility, secure withdrawal management and stabilization facility, or approved substance use disorder treatment program admits the minor, it may detain the minor for evaluation and treatment for a period not to exceed one hundred twenty hours from the time of provisional acceptance. The computation of such one hundred twenty hour period shall exclude Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. This initial treatment period shall not exceed one hundred twenty hours except when an application for voluntary inpatient treatment is received or a petition for fourteen-day commitment is filed.

(6) Within twelve hours of the admission, the facility shall advise the minor of his or her rights as set forth in this chapter.

[2021 c 264 s 33; 2020 c 302 s 86; (2020 c 302 s 85 expired January 1, 2021). Prior: 2019 c 446 s 34; 2019 c 444 s 18; 2018 c 201 s 5017; prior: 2016 sp.s. c 29 s 271; 2016 c 155 s 19; 2009 c 217 s 16; 1991 c 364 s 12; 1985 c 354 s 6. Formerly RCW 71.34.060.]

**Expiration date—2021 c 264 ss 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 14, 31, and 33:** See note following RCW 71.05.150.

**Expiration date—2020 c 302 ss 12, 15, 25, 31, 33, 35, 38, 54, 75, 82, 85, 88, and 91:** See note following RCW 71.05.150.

**Effective date—2020 c 302 ss 13, 16, 19-23, 26, 32, 34, 36, 39, 55, 59, 76, 83, 86, 89, and 92:** See note following RCW 71.05.150.

**Expiration date—2020 c 302 ss 13, 16, 26, 39, 45, 55, 78, 83, 86, 92, 94, and 97:** See note following RCW 71.05.150.

**Expiration date—2019 c 446 ss 4, 6, 8, 11, 14, 30, 32, 34, 37, 39, and 41:** See note following RCW 71.05.150.

**Expiration dates—2019 c 444 ss 12 and 18:** See note following RCW 43.70.442.

**Expiration date—2018 c 201 ss 3009, 3012, 3026, 5017, and 5020:** See note following RCW 71.05.240.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2018 c 201:** See notes following RCW 41.05.018.

**Effective dates—2016 sp.s. c 29:** See note following RCW 71.05.760.

**Short title—Right of action—2016 sp.s. c 29:** See notes following RCW 71.05.010.

**Findings—Construction—Conflict with federal requirements—1991 c 364:** See notes following RCW 71.05.210.

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(2) If, at any time during the involuntary treatment hold and following the initial examination and evaluation, the children's mental health specialist or substance use disorder specialist and the physician, physician assistant, or psychiatric \*advanced registered nurse practitioner determine that the initial needs of the minor, if detained to an evaluation and treatment facility, would be better served by placement in a secure withdrawal management and stabilization facility or approved substance use disorder treatment program or, if detained to a secure withdrawal management and stabilization facility or approved substance use disorder treatment program, would be better served in an evaluation and treatment facility, then the minor shall be referred to the more appropriate placement for the remainder of the current commitment period without any need for further court review.

(3) The admitting facility shall take reasonable steps to notify immediately the minor's parent of the admission.

(4) During the initial one hundred twenty hour treatment period, the minor has a right to associate or receive communications from parents or others unless the professional person in charge determines that such communication would be seriously detrimental to the minor's condition or treatment and so indicates in the minor's clinical record, and notifies the minor's parents of this determination. A minor must not be denied the opportunity to consult an attorney unless there is an immediate risk of harm to the minor or others.

(5) If the evaluation and treatment facility, secure withdrawal management and stabilization facility, or approved substance use disorder treatment program admits the minor, it may detain the minor for evaluation and treatment for a period not to exceed one hundred twenty hours from the time of provisional acceptance. The computation of such one hundred twenty hour period shall exclude Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. This initial treatment period shall not exceed one hundred twenty hours except when an application for voluntary inpatient treatment is received or a petition for fourteen-day commitment is filed.

(6) Within twelve hours of the admission, the facility shall advise the minor of his or her rights as set forth in this chapter. [2021 c 264 s 34; 2020 c 302 s 87; (2020 c 302 s 85 expired January 1, 2021). Prior: 2019 c 446 s 35; 2019 c 444 s 19; 2018 c 201 s 5018; 2016 sp.s. c 29 s 272; 2016 sp.s. c 29 s 271; 2016 c 155 s 19; 2009 c 217 s 16; 1991 c 364 s 12; 1985 c 354 s 6. Formerly RCW 71.34.060.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The term "advanced registered nurse practitioner" was changed to "advanced practice registered nurse" by 2024 c 239 s 1, effective June 30, 2027.

**Effective date—2021 c 264 ss 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 15, 32, and 34:** See note following RCW 71.05.150.

**Expiration date—2020 c 302 ss 12, 15, 25, 31, 33, 35, 38, 54, 75, 82, 85, 88, and 91:** See note following RCW 71.05.150.

**Effective date—2020 c 302 ss 14, 17, 27, 40, 46, 56, 79, 84, 87, 93, 95, and 98:** See note following RCW 71.05.150.

**Effective date—2019 c 446 ss 5, 7, 9, 12, 15, 31, 33, 35, 38, 40, and 42:** See note following RCW 71.05.150.

**Effective dates—2019 c 444 ss 13 and 19:** See note following RCW 43.70.442.

**Effective date—2018 c 201 ss 3010, 3013, 3027, 5018, and 5021:** See note following RCW 71.05.240.

**Findings—Intent—2018 c 201:** See note following RCW 41.05.018.

**Effective dates—2016 sp.s. c 29:** See note following RCW 71.05.760.

**Short title—Right of action—2016 sp.s. c 29:** See notes following RCW 71.05.010.

**Findings—Construction—Conflict with federal requirements—1991 c 364:** See notes following RCW 71.05.210.