

WEISMAN CHILDREN'S REHABILITATION HOSPITAL (WCRH)
Administrative Manual

**SUBJECT: DIVISION OF CHILD PROTECTION &
PERMANENCY – HOSPITAL HOLD**

NO: 9.18.1

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6/12; 1/13; 1/14; 1/18, 1/21, 1/24**

Regulatory

PURPOSE:

To ensure the safety of any child determined to be at risk, or who is under the direct supervision of the Division of Child Protection & Permanency (DCP&P) on admission or at some time during their stay at WCRH.

POLICY:

It is the policy of WCRH to comply with the New Jersey State Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) procedures for instituting a "Hospital Hold."

PROCEDURE:

1. Should a parent/guardian come into the hospital demanding to discharge a child the following action should be taken:

a. Page the physician, administrator, nurse manager, and social worker to report the incident immediately. A decision will be made as to how to proceed based on the risk to the child the following guidelines provided by DCP&P. If a child is determined to be at risk using these criteria below, the physician or administrator shall initiate a Hospital Hold:

1. The child has been injured due to abuse or neglect.
2. The child is in need of medical examination and/or treatment.
3. The parent/guardians are unwilling to authorize needed treatment or hospitalization
4. The physician or hospital believes the child would be further endangered if he/she were to be released to the parent/guardian.

b. If the family/guardian is combative or non-complaint, contact the Evesham Township Police Department at 911. Explain the situation and request police dispatch to the hospital immediately.

c. Contact the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation security guard for assistance.

d. During normal business hours, Social Work will contact DCP&P Burlington County Office at (856) 802-0181 to inform of the "Hospital Hold." After normal business hours, the emergency DCP&P hotline number must be called at (877-652-2873. DCP&P will immediately respond and send a caseworker to the hospital to investigate the incident. DCP&P will advise hospital on procedures to follow from this point on.

e. The physician or hospital administrator who takes a child in to protective custody shall have immunity from legal liability, and must notify DCP&P immediately.

f. When DCP&P is notified that a child is taken into protective custody by a physician or hospital administrator, DCP&P shall immediately:

- (1). Inform the parent/guardian regarding the legal authority of the physician or hospital to take such action.
- (2) Inform the parents regarding their rights to visit the child as determined by the hospital
- (3) Inform the parents regarding the whereabouts of the child
- (4) Investigate the circumstances under which the child was harmed, and secure the safety of other children in the home.

The decision to invoke and maintain the hospital hold is to be based on the professional medical diagnosis of the physician or administrator. Hospital Hold is valid for three court working days. If the child needs further hospitalization or placement, the Division may petition the court for protective custody of the child for an extended period of time.

Administrator