



BC MENTAL HEALTH ACT INFOBITS

Monthly MHA news, tips and resources



METHODS OF ARRANGING FOR INVOLUNTARY ADMISSION

BC MHA authorizes three methods to have a person admitted involuntarily:

1. By the use of Medical Certificates (Form 4.1) & the person presenting at a designated facility
2. By police intervention under MHA section 28(1)
3. By an order issued by judge (Forms 9 & 10).

This issue will provide guidance for using Forms 9 & 10 when the other methods to start an involuntary admission is not available

HIGHLIGHT

Section 28(3) of the MHA provides the option to apply to a judge, or a justice of the peace if a judge is not available, for a warrant for police to apprehend and transport the person to a designated facility to be examined by a physician.

Anyone (including family, neighbours or health professionals) with a good reason to believe a person has a mental disorder & meets the criteria for involuntary admission under the MHA can apply for the Judicial Warrant.

To apply for the judge's warrant, a **Form 9**, Application for Warrant (Apprehension of Person with Apparent Mental Disorder for Purpose of Examination) is used.

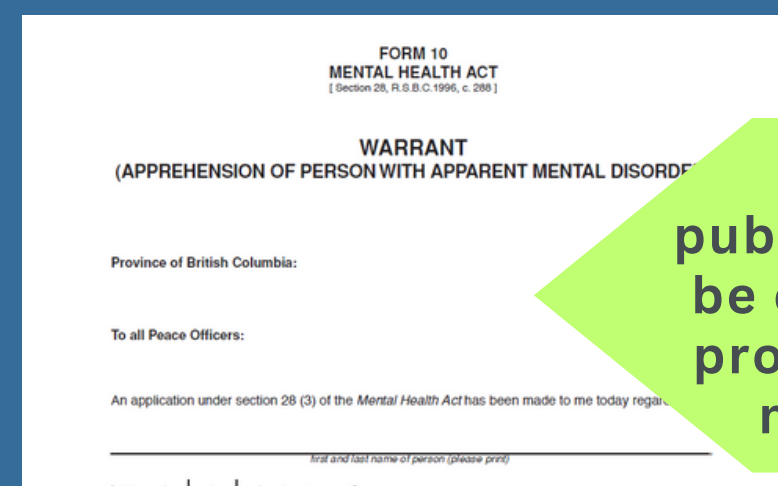
You may be asked for additional information and may have to meet with the judge before a decision is made.

Judge will evaluate information and determine if there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person meets the four criteria for an involuntary admission under the MHA.

If the Judge is satisfied that the person meets the criteria, they may issue a Form 10, known as a Judicial Warrant.

  **PRACTICE SUPPORT TOOLS & RESOURCES:**
[MHA Forms \(BC Govt Website\)](#)
[Guide to BC MHA Appendix 11](#)
[MHA Intranet Page](#)

MHA FORMS 9 & 10



Information for the public about Form 10 can be obtained via the local provincial courthouse or mental health service.

The Judge will provide the warrant to the police which authorizes all peace officers to take the person into custody to a designated facility for a psychiatric assessment.

The **Form 10** authorizes a person to be detained in a designated facility for up to 48 hours for the purpose of a psychiatric assessment.

If after the psychiatric assessment it is determined that the person meets the criteria for involuntary admission, Form 4.1 Sections 1 & 2 are required to be completed. Forms 5, 13, 15 & 16 are required to be completed within 24 hours of the involuntary admission (Form 4.1 Section 2 Date & Time).

Once fully completed, the Form 4.1 is valid for up to 48 hours, as per usual process. If the person continue to meet involuntary criteria, Form 4.2 must be completed to continue the involuntary admission & treatment for up to one month.

- Have BC MHA-related questions? Have an idea for a future newsletter topic? Reach out to: MHASupport@islandhealth.ca
- Resources, practice support tools & past INFOBITS issues - [click here](#)

MHA Resource Team