

## **BC MENTAL HEALTH ACT [RSBC 1996] CHAPTER 288**

### **Involuntary admissions**

22 (1) The director of a designated facility may admit a person to the designated facility and detain the person for up to 48 hours for examination and treatment on receiving one medical certificate respecting the person completed by a physician in accordance with subsections (3) and (4).

(2) On receipt by the director of a second medical certificate completed by another physician in accordance with subsections (3) and (5) respecting the patient admitted under subsection (1), the detention and treatment of that patient may be continued beyond the 48 hour period referred to in subsection (1).

(3) Each medical certificate under this section must be completed by a physician who has examined the person to be admitted, or the patient admitted, under subsection (1) and must set out

(a) a statement by the physician that the physician

- has examined the person or patient on the date or dates set out, and
- is of the opinion that the person or patient is a person with a mental disorder,

(b) the reasons in summary form for the opinion, and

(c) a statement, separate from that under paragraph (a), by the physician that the physician is of the opinion that the person to be admitted, or the patient admitted, under subsection (1)

- requires treatment in or through a designated facility,
- requires care, supervision and control in or through a designated facility to prevent the person's or patient's substantial mental or physical deterioration or for the protection of the person or patient or the protection of others, and
- cannot suitably be admitted as a voluntary patient.

(4) A medical certificate referred to in subsection (1) is not valid unless both it and the examination it describes are completed not more than 14 days before the date of admission.

(5) A second medical certificate referred to in subsection (2) is not valid unless both it and the examination it describes are completed within the 48 hour period following the time of admission.

(6) A medical certificate completed under subsection (1) in accordance with subsections (3) and (4) is authority for anyone to apprehend the person to be admitted, and for the transportation, admission and detention for treatment of that person in or through a designated facility.

(7) A patient admitted under subsection (1) to an observation unit must be transferred to a Provincial mental health facility or psychiatric unit within the prescribed period after a second medical certificate is received under subsection (2) by the director of the observation unit unless the patient is

(a) discharged, or

(b) released on leave or transferred to an approved home under section 37 or 38.