

What Is Mental Health Crisis Court?



The Mental Health Crisis Court is a division of the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas responsible for administering Pennsylvania's involuntary commitment laws for persons with mental illness. Patients may retain private legal counsel if they wish. For those who do not retain private legal counsel, a court appointed attorney will be present. Individuals under the age of 18 years should be accompanied by a family member or guardian.

Where is the Mental Health Crisis Court?

The Mental Health Crisis Court is held at Crozer - Chester Medical Center - North Campus, 301 W. 15th Street (15th Street and Upland Terrace), Upland, PA 19013

When is Crisis Court Held?

Court is regularly held on Tuesday and Friday mornings beginning at 8:30 am. The patients begin to arrive at 8:00 am. Family members or friends may arrange to be with the patient at the time of his or her arrival.

In the event of a holiday, check with the inpatient social worker where the patient is hospitalized for the revised court schedule.

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What happens at a Mental Health Crisis Hearing?

A 302 is a petition for an involuntary commitment of up to 120 hours. The 302 must be filed by the person who observed the behavior. If the hospital treatment team recommends further hospitalization beyond the 120 hours, a Mental Health 303 Hearing is scheduled. A patient has the right to agree or disagree with what the 302 petition says and with the treatment team's recommendation for further hospitalization. Testimony from both sides of the issue will be heard by the Court. If the Mental Health Review Officer determines the patient should be held for further treatment, a 303 Order is issued. This is a court order for extended treatment in a psychiatric setting for a period of no more that 20 days. It is expected that the 302 petitioner be present in Court for the Mental Health Hearing to present the testimony written on the 302 petition.

A 302 is a Petition for involuntary commitment of up to 120 hours. A 303 is a Court Order for extended treatment of no more than 20 days.

What to expect on the day of Crisis Court

The patient is transported to Crisis Court and given a brief examination by the Delaware County Psychiatrist. The Psychiatrist receives all relevant information prior to examining the patient. Family members or friends may be present for this examination, if the patient desires. The 302 petitioner should always be available for an interview with the County Psychiatrist.

All patients are seen by the psychiatrist so that the time allotted for psychiatric examinations will vary. After being examined by the psychiatrist, the patient has the opportunity to speak with the court-appointed patient attorney.

When a patient agrees to receive further treatment the patient is escorted into the courtroom to enter his/her agreement for continued treatment on the record before a hearing officer.

When a patient requests a hearing, the patient is escorted into the courtroom to tell the Court why he/she does not think that further treatment is required before a hearing officer. The hearing officer will render a decision that is in the best interest of the patient after listening to testimony from all parties. Family members/friends may accompany the patient at this time.

Questions or concerns while at Crisis Court should be directed to the Mental Health Crisis Court Coordinator.

Crisis Court Contacts:

Patient Attorney

Don Havens 484-472-8613

Crisis Court Coordinator

Steve Akpunonu 610-713-2365

Emergency Weather Information

Delaware County Main # 610-891-4000

From Center City Philadelphia

Time: 20 minutes

1. Take I-95 S.
2. Exit 6 Crozer-Chester/Widener University
3. Make right off exit ramp to 1st left, E. 13th Street
4. Make 1st right onto Walnut Street
5. Make 1st left onto 14th Street
6. Cross over Providence Road
7. Cross over Rte. 352, continuing straight for 3 blocks
8. At end of North campus Building (on right) turn right onto W. 15th Street, parking on right
9. Entrance at 15th and Shaw Terrace.

From the Blue Route (I 476 S.)

Time: 15 minutes

1. Take I 476 S. to I-95 S.
2. Exit 6 Crozer-Chester/Widener University
3. Make right off exit ramp to 1st left, E. 13th Street
4. Make 1st right onto Walnut Street
5. Make 1st left onto 14th Street
6. Cross over Providence Road
7. Continue from #7 above.

From Delaware State Line

Time: 8 minutes

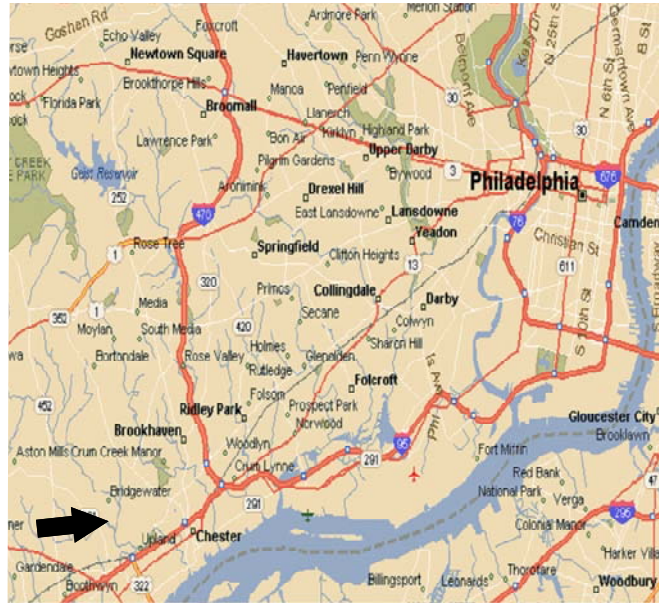
1. After exit for Rte 322 E., move to extreme right lane
2. Exit at Kerlin Street; then turn left onto Kerlin Street
3. When Kerlin Street ends, turn right onto Upland Avenue
4. Pass Sunnyside, Garden and Presidents Drives
5. Bear left at North Campus Building (fork in road) onto W. 15th Street, parking on right
6. Entrance at 15th and Shaw terrace.

From the Granite Run Mall

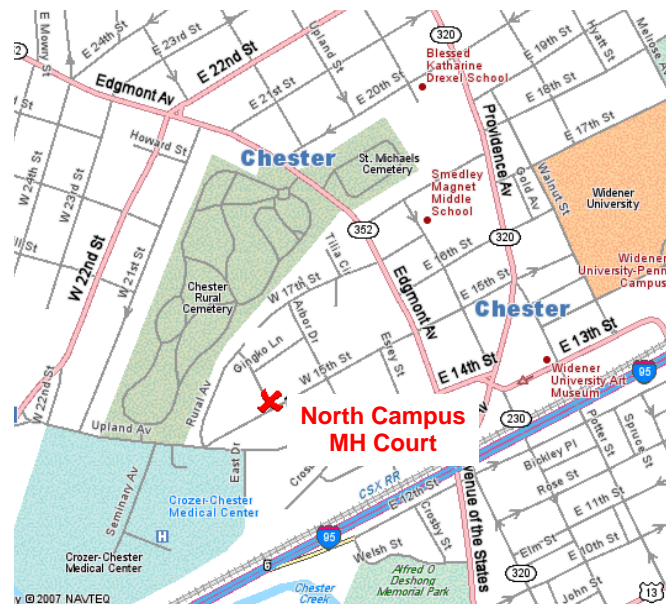
Time: 15 minutes

1. Take Rte. 352 S.
2. After the Brookhaven Shopping Center, road becomes two-lane Edgmont Avenue
3. After 1/2 mile, turn right onto 22nd Street
4. Bear left at the "V."
5. At stop sign, turn left onto Upland Avenue
6. Continue from #5 above.

Major Highway Route to Crozer-Chester Medical Center



Close-up view of Crozer Chester Medical Center location



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Delaware County Mental Health Crisis Court



Delaware County
Office of Behavioral Health
Division of Mental Health
20 S. 69th Street
Upper Darby, PA 19082
610-713-2365