

Mandated for:

- County Operated Programs
- Short / Doyle Contractors
- Institutes for the Mentally Diseased (IMD)
- Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF)
- Residential Care Facilities (RCF) – Contract
- Fee-for-Service Providers (FFS)
- Other – Specify: _____

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL**

Policy 412-416 Page 1 of 4

Developed: _____ 03.10

Last Reviewed: _____

Mental Health Director

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO INITIATE 5150 HOLDS

POLICY: Section 5150 of the California Welfare & Institutions code (hereafter WIC) provides for the detention of any person who, "...as a result of mental disorder, is a danger to others, or himself or herself, or grave disabled..." The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the implementation of this section of the code.

Only those individuals identified in § 5150 WIC may initiate a 5150 detention. By statute, all peace officers may do so. Others, as authorized by the Santa Clara County Mental Health Director, may also initiate these detentions. Once trained and authorized, these individuals will be issued a wallet-sized 5150 Authorization Card. Only peace officers and individuals who possess such card may initiate 5150 detentions in Santa Clara County.

The following professionals are eligible to apply for training to become 5150 Authorized (i.e., possess the ability to initiate and sign the Application for a 72-Hour Detention for Evaluation and Treatment). These individuals must work for the Santa Clara County Mental Health Department, or for a contract provider of the Santa Clara County Mental Health Department, or for one of the LPS designated or non LPS designated Santa Clara County hospitals and associated clinics:

- Licensed physicians (limited to Psychiatrists and Emergency Department physicians, with certain exceptions)
- Licensed clinical psychologists
- Licensed clinical social workers
- Licensed marriage, family and child counselors
- Licensed Psychiatric Residents
- Licensed psychiatric RN's who have been licensed as a psychiatric nurse for at least three years and who have worked in an LPS designated hospital in a full time capacity for a minimum of one year
- Licensed psychiatric technicians, who have been licensed as a psychiatric technician for at least three years and who work in a setting where no other staff person has the authority to initiate 5150s

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
POLICY & PROCEDURES**

Section _____ Page 2 of 4

**Professionals who do not work for the Santa Clara County Mental Health Department, or for a contract provider of the Santa Clara County Mental Health Department, may not receive a 5150 Authorization Card unless their agency/employer has a specific, written agreement with the Santa Clara County Mental Health Department regarding appropriate supervision of the card holder by the agency/employer. Supervision shall include necessary education in the areas of liability, pertinent changes made to the W & I Code, etc. Those interested in establishing such an agreement shall contact the QI Manager for the Department.

The Medical Director of the Department is the Director's designee for authorization of individuals to hold 5150 Authorization.

For other information pertinent to this process, and to 5150 detentions, please refer to the Santa Clara County Mental Health Department's LPS Training Manual.

PROCEDURE:

<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Action</u>
Individuals interested in having 5150 Authorization	1. Submit application to the QI Manager of the Department of Mental Health
QI Manager/Designee	2. Reviews application for appropriateness of credentials, and submits to Medical Director for review and signature.
Medical Director	3. Reviews applications and approves as indicated. Where applicant does not appear to meet criteria to hold a 5150 Authorization Card, makes exceptions as clinically indicated, or rejects application. Returns applications to QI Manager.
QI Manager/Designee	4. Schedules approved applicants for training. Notifies rejected applicants that they may attend training, but will not be issued a 5150 Authorization Card, and cannot initiate 5150 detentions.
Approved Applicant	5. Attends the six hour training as scheduled. At the end of training takes the written test. If the test is passed, results will be submitted to the QI Manager. If the test is failed, the applicant may request to

Attachments:

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
POLICY & PROCEDURES**

Section _____ Page 3 of 4

Responsibility

Action

retake the test. The test must be passed before authorization to initiate 5150 detentions will be given.

QI Manager/Designee

6. Receives notification of passed test. Issues 5150 Authorization Card, and enters recipient into the electronic database of card holders.

NOTE:

5150 Authorization Cards are valid for a period of five years. The expiration date will be entered on the card. The card may be renewed for another five years if the holder attends an LPS Training session.

5150 Authorization Card Holder

7. Monitors electronic database for cards approaching expiration, and notifies card holder six months prior to date of expiration of need for retraining.
8. Updates electronic database, as needed.
9. Uses card only within the guidelines provided in the training session, located in the LPS Training Manual. Improper use of card may result in revocation.
10. Upon leaving employment, surrenders card to the QI Manager.

Attachments:

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
POLICY & PROCEDURES**

Section _____ Page 4 of 4

Attachments: