



Memorandum

Date: March 18, 2020
Subject: DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVE ON SUSPENSION OF SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATOR (SVP) PATIENT ADMISSIONS

Pursuant to Governor Gavin Newsom's Proclamation of a State of Emergency dated March 4, 2020, the Director of the Department of State Hospitals issues this Directive in accordance with the Director's authority to execute laws relating to the care and treatment of persons with mental health disorders placed with the State Department of State Hospitals (DSH). To ensure that patients with mental health disorders currently in DSH's custody continue to receive the services and support that are threatened by disruptions caused by COVID-19, and to protect the health, safety and welfare of those patients, the Department is suspending its admission of patients placed at DSH facilities pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 6600, et seq. (SVP patients).

During the period of suspended admissions of SVP patients, if there is an SVP patient who is currently committed to DSH facilities but out to court, or out to medical, and ready to return, DSH will work with the sending facility on a case by case basis as to whether to re-admit these patients. The DSH Director retains the sole discretion as to whether to re-admit such patients during this period of suspended admissions.

The county court, correctional facility, or health care facility who may be seeking to return a currently committed SVP who is out-to-court or out-to-medical should contact the DSH-Coalinga Admissions Unit to initiate this request. The DSH-Coalinga Transfer Coordinator may be contacted at: (559) 935-7337.

This suspension of SVP patient admissions will remain in effect for 30 days, unless extended by the Director of the Department.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Clendenin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

STEPHANIE CLENDENIN
Director