

125.34 Treatment and services for intoxicated persons and persons incapacitated by alcohol.

1. An intoxicated person may come voluntarily to a facility for emergency treatment. A person who appears to be intoxicated or incapacitated by a chemical substance in a public place and in need of help may be taken to a facility by a peace officer under section 125.91. If the person refuses the proffered help, the person may be arrested and charged with intoxication under section 123.46, if applicable.

2. If no facility is readily available the person may be taken to an emergency medical service customarily used for incapacitated persons. The peace officer in detaining the person and in taking the person to a facility shall make every reasonable effort to protect the person's health and safety. In detaining the person the detaining officer may take reasonable steps for self-protection. Detaining a person under section 125.91 is not an arrest and no entry or other record shall be made to indicate that the person who is detained has been arrested or charged with a crime.

3. A person who arrives at a facility and voluntarily submits to examination shall be examined by a licensed physician as soon as possible after the person arrives at the facility. The person may then be admitted as a patient or referred to another health facility. The referring facility shall arrange for transportation.

4. If a person is voluntarily admitted to a facility, the person's family or next of kin shall be notified as promptly as possible. If an adult patient who is not incapacitated requests that there be no notification, the request shall be respected.

5. A peace officer who acts in compliance with this section is acting in the course of the officer's official duty and is not criminally or civilly liable therefor, unless such acts constitute willful malice or abuse.

6. If the physician in charge of the facility determines it is for the patient's benefit, the patient shall be encouraged to agree to further diagnosis and appropriate voluntary treatment.

7. A licensed physician and surgeon or osteopathic physician and surgeon, facility administrator, or an employee or a person acting as or on behalf of the facility administrator, is not criminally or civilly liable for acts in conformity with this chapter, unless the acts constitute willful malice or abuse.

[C75, 77, §125.17; C79, 81, §125.34; 82 Acts, ch 1212, §24]

86 Acts, ch 1001, §8