

229.10 Physicians' examination report.

1. An examination of the respondent shall be conducted by one or more licensed physicians, as required by the court's order, within a reasonable time. If the respondent is detained pursuant to section 229.11, subsection 2, the examination shall be conducted within twenty-four hours. If the respondent is detained pursuant to section 229.11, subsection 1 or 3, the examination shall be conducted within forty-eight hours. If the respondent so desires, the respondent shall be entitled to a separate examination by a licensed physician of the respondent's own choice. The reasonable cost of such separate examination shall, if the respondent lacks sufficient funds to pay the cost, be paid from county funds upon order of the court.

Any licensed physician conducting an examination pursuant to this section may consult with or request the participation in the examination of any qualified mental health professional, and may include with or attach to the written report of the examination any findings or observations by any qualified mental health professional who has been so consulted or has so participated in the examination.

If the respondent is not taken into custody under section 229.11, but the court is subsequently informed that the respondent has declined to be examined by the licensed physician or physicians pursuant to the court order, the court may order such limited detention of the respondent as is necessary to facilitate the examination of the respondent by the licensed physician or physicians.

2. A written report of the examination by the court-designated physician or physicians shall be filed with the clerk prior to the time set for hearing. A written report of any examination by a physician chosen by the respondent may be similarly filed. The clerk shall immediately:

a. Cause the report or reports to be shown to the judge who issued the order; and

b. Cause the respondent's attorney to receive a copy of the report of the court-designated physician or physicians.

3. If the report of the court-designated physician or physicians is to the effect that the individual is not seriously mentally impaired, the court may without taking further action terminate the proceeding and dismiss the application on its own motion and without notice.

4. If the report of the court-designated physician or physicians is to the effect that the respondent is seriously mentally impaired, the court shall schedule a hearing on the application as soon as possible. The hearing shall be held not more than forty-eight hours after the report is filed, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, unless an extension for good cause is requested by the respondent, or as soon thereafter as possible if the court considers that sufficient grounds exist for delaying the hearing.

[C77, 79, 81, § 229.10]