

New law (Ch.C. Art. 1404(23) and (24)) defines "family psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner" as an individual who maintains the credentials and meets the requirements of a "psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner" as provided in state law. Further, requires that a family psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner have been engaged in clinical practice for not less than three years. Also, new law defines "psychologist" as meaning an individual licensed to practice psychology in La. in accordance with state law or licensed to practice medical psychology in La. in accordance with state law and who has been engaged in the practice of a clinical specialty for not less than three years.

Existing law (Ch.C. Art. 1421) authorizes any physician to execute an emergency certificate only after an actual examination of a minor alleged to be mentally ill or suffering from substance abuse who is determined to be in need of immediate medical treatment in a treatment facility because the examining physician determines him to be dangerous to himself or others or to be gravely disabled. Further provides that the failure to conduct an examination prior to the execution of the certificate constitutes evidence of gross negligence.

New law adds authorization for a family psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner or psychologist to execute an emergency certificate after examination of the minor and a determination that such minor is a danger to himself or others.

Prior law (Ch.C. Art. 1422(A)(1) and (2)), in pertinent part, required that an emergency certificate include the following:

- (1) The date of the physician's examination of the minor, which must not be more than 72 hours prior to the date of the signature of the certificate.
- (2) The objective findings of the physician relative to the physical and mental condition of the minor, leading to the conclusion that he is dangerous to himself or others or is gravely disabled as a result of substance abuse or mental illness.

New law modifies prior law by specifying that the date a family psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner or psychologist examined the minor must also be included in an emergency certificate.

Existing law (Ch.C. Art. 1423(A)(2)) provides that whenever a minor is admitted to a treatment facility by emergency certificate, the director of the treatment facility must immediately notify the coroner of the parish in which the treatment facility is located of the admission and provide the name of the certifying physician.

New law adds a requirement to existing law that if a family psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner or psychologist executes the emergency certificate for a minor's admission to a treatment facility, the director of such facility must provide the name of that health professional to the parish coroner.

Effective August 1, 2012.

(Amends Ch.C. Arts. 1421, 1422(A)(1) and (2), and 1423(A)(2); Adds Ch.C.Art. 1404(23) and (24))