

Effective January 1, 2022

Mental Health Outpatient Offices

Addendum Two:

The Pasco County Behavioral Health Transportation Plan 2020 - 2023 was approved on April 21, 2020. The intention of the Behavioral Health Community is to minimize trauma related to an emergency involuntary mental health evaluation. Statutorily, it is the responsibility of law enforcement to provide transportation unless otherwise specified in the county's transportation plan. Currently, Pasco Sheriff's Office transports individuals who are evaluated by a licensed professional to be at risk of harming themselves or others. Beginning in the Fall of 2020, TransCare and the Pasco Sheriff's Office collaborated to determine Behavioral Health transportation modes that would allow for faster turnaround times in the field for law enforcement, negate the need for additional resources for patient transports, decrease trauma and stigma by transport in a Behavioral Health Van vs the back seat of a patrol vehicle.

Individuals who meet the criteria described within F.S. 394.462 will be transported as described in the Pasco County Transportation Plan or as described in the ex parte court order. Individuals who meet the criteria described within F.S. 397 will be transported as described in the ex parte court order or to the nearest medical emergency room. Individuals who are within a licensed professional's office and a Certificate of Professional Initiating an involuntary examination shall be transported by the contracted transportation provider (TransCare) to the nearest mental health receiving facility. Individuals exhibiting aggressive behavior or presenting as an elopement risk will be transported by law enforcement.

For individuals that require transportation from outpatient offices that are older than the age of 8 that require involuntary transportation to the designated facility will be transported by TransCare Medical Transportation Services ("TransCare"). TransCare provides this dignified means of transportation and paraprofessional care to persons experiencing a crisis in their lives that may cause them to pose a danger to themselves or others or to be self-neglectful. TransCare does not transport patients who are voluntary admits that are void of Baker Act or Marchman Act status.

For individuals that require transportation from outpatient offices, they must be older than the age of 8. Due to the importance of safety to the patient, any person younger than the age of 8 requiring transport must be completed by law enforcement or ambulatory services. In all cases the primary consideration is safety for the person in crisis and all others who are involved; and providing dignity, respect, and humane treatment for the individuals served during a challenging and difficult time in their lives.

TransCare Dispatch (813-964-1594, press 1) is called to arrange alternate transportation. TransCare strives to maintain high availability across Pasco County. To support timely service, TransCare requests that attending Law Enforcement and/or medical personnel, be present with the patient and be ready to transfer care within 15 minutes of on scene arrival.