

## RETURNING HOME

### What about discharge?

The MCES psychiatrist and/or the mental health court (if involuntary) recommends discharge based on an evaluation of an individual and input of the other members of the treatment team. The time of discharge depends on aftercare planning and many other variables. Patience on the day of discharge is requested.

### What about ongoing care in the community?

Many individuals must continue with therapy and medications after leaving MCES. The psychiatrist will provide a care plan and prescriptions. Social Service will make any necessary referrals.

## INVOLUNTARY ADMISSIONS

### What leads to an involuntary hospitalization?

A very serious psychiatric emergency that may endanger the patient or others, or being unable to take care of one's self.

### How long may an involuntary admission last?

State law allows an admission up to five days and an initial extension for up to twenty days. Extensions are based on a hearing by the Mental Health Review Officer of the Court of Common Pleas.

### What is a mental health hearing?

It is a civil proceeding. A Public Defender represents the patient at no cost. Witnesses testify about behavior that they have observed. An MCES psychiatrist reports on the patient's status. The patient will then usually have an opportunity to testify on their own behalf.

Hearings are usually brief and are held at MCES as a convenience. **MCES has no control over scheduling or delays due to court business.** Our Social Service staff can provide more information on request.



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**MCES helps individuals who have had a serious psychiatric emergency. Everything that we do is intended to help our patients and their families deal with this crisis within a safe environment. Our policies support patient safety and privacy.**

**To Ensure Privacy, Visitors May Not Disclose the Presence of Any Patient To Others Outside**

## Information for Visitors

### VISITING HOURS

Tuesday & Sunday 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Thursday & Saturday 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

**We ask that there be only two visitors per each visiting period.**

**You must be 18 or older to visit on the unit.** Visiting hours are limited due to intensive treatment which includes evening group therapy.

Approved visitors are: **parents, grandparents, siblings, children, in-laws, aunts/uncles, cousins, spouses, significant others (examples being fiancée/fiancé, life partner, caregiver, landlord) and sole support for patients with no family.**

### VISITING INFORMATION

- All individuals may receive visitors of their choice providing that the visit does not interfere with therapy, activities, or other patients.
- Visitors must display their hand stamp when entering and exiting the hospital/unit.
- Visitors must complete and sign the visitors pass when entering and exiting the unit.
- Visitors may be required to show photo identification prior to visiting.

- Lockers are provided for items that are not permitted on the unit. Keep the key during your visit and **return the key to the locker when leaving.**
- MCES is not responsible for items left in the visitors lockers.
- Children under the age of 18 must be under the direct supervision of a responsible adult, if waiting in the lobby.
- Clergy, attorneys, and mental health professionals may arrange alternate visitation times.
- MCES reserves the right to deny a visit pending approval of the treatment team.

Patients - Please address any concerns regarding visiting with your primary nurse, treatment team or at community meeting.

### WARNING

**The passage of drugs, alcohol, flammables, or implements of escape to patients in this facility and/or otherwise aiding/abetting escape is a crime that will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Persons suspected of such a crime will be detained pending arrival of police. Infractions of visiting rules or providing false information will result in the suspension of visiting privileges. Visitors also agree to a search of his/her person and/or any items brought onto the unit. MCES reserves the right to deny any visit.**

# Information for Visitors

## PERSONAL ITEMS

### Clothing

It is suggested that patients have no more than four (4) changes of clothing, including what the patient is wearing. Please label all clothing with a marker or laundry tape.

Personal property (including clothing, cigarettes, and money) is accepted between the hours of 7 AM and 7 PM daily.

Clothing and items brought in for an individual become their responsibility.

Clothing and items brought for an individual must be inspected and labeled. These items are searched in the Crisis Department prior to being sent to the unit. After visiting hours these items will be made available.

### Money

Visitors may give money directly to the person they are visiting during regular visiting hours. We ask that the amount be limited to \$15 per day.

Money brought in Monday to Friday between 8 AM and 4 PM will be available to the patient the same day. It is otherwise deposited in the patient safe and made available the next business day.

**MCES is not responsible for any items lost or stolen, for items left more than 30 days after discharge, for clothing that could be damaged by washing, or for items kept by the patient.**

### Mail

Please understand that because of short stays, mail and parcels may not arrive before discharge.

Our mailing address is:  
MCES  
50 Beech Drive  
Norristown, PA 19403

## PATIENT SAFETY

There is no smoking permitted by visitors on the unit.

**Food and drink may not be brought in** by visitors. When patients have money, they may order out and menus will be provided from approved restaurants.

Flowers may be brought in and displayed in coated cardboard containers or placed in baskets without wires.

Visitors should alert the reception staff if you have a contagious disease or if you have been recently exposed to such a disease. We may ask you to return at a later time.

All visitors must pass through the metal detector. Any visitor who cannot successfully pass through the metal detector may not visit.

If, while visiting, the emergency/fire alarm sounds, please follow the directions of the staff.

For visitor and patient safety, please **do not attempt to intervene in any problematic situations.**

### Visiting Areas

Individuals on *Center Hall* will receive visitors in the Activities Room and individuals on *North Hall* will receive visitors in the Dining Room.

**Due to infection control and privacy issues, there will be no visiting in individual rooms.**

Once a visitor leaves the unit, he/she will not be permitted to return during that visiting period.

### Confidentiality

Confidentiality is of the utmost importance at MCES. Please do not disclose the presence of any client to others outside of the hospital.

## RESTRICTED ITEMS

- The contraband list is posted in the Reception area. A copy is available upon request.
- No weapons or sharp objects of any kind.
- No drugs, alcohol or over-the-counter and/or prescription medication.
- No expensive clothing or valuables.
- No provocative clothing.
- No matches, lighters or flammable items.
- No cameras, tape recorders, cell phones or pagers.
- No ties or belts.
- No tobacco products are permitted for patients under age 18 by penalty of law (PA ACT #7 of 1990).

## UNIT PHONE NUMBERS

Calls may be received and made from 7:30 AM to 10:30 PM.

While visiting, please make a note as to the number of the patient phones nearest to your family member's room.

<u>NORTH HALL</u>	<u>CENTER HALL</u>
610-279-6105	610-279-6106

## INSURANCE

MCES accepts most insurance plans and coverage. However, patients are responsible for all charges, including co-pays and deductibles. MCES accepts cash, check or credit card to make payment. If unable to make payment in full, payment arrangements can be made.

Can Medical Assistance, Medicaid cover hospitalization?

Yes, provided the patient applies for Medicaid and meets the criteria necessary to receive Medicaid benefits. Medicaid may cover all or a portion of the charges if patient is eligible for Medicaid.

What is needed to apply for Medicaid?

Photo identification, Social Security card, and proof of address. In addition, documentation of all financial assets must be provided. This can include wages, bank accounts, SSD or SSI payments. MCES will assist the patient with the application. Family members are encouraged to assist with the application by providing some of the necessary documentation.