

**202A.021 Hospitalization of minors -- Admission or discharge of voluntary patients.**

- (1) The hospitalization of minors alleged to be mentally ill, except those provided for in KRS Chapter 640, shall be governed by KRS Chapter 645.
- (2) An authorized staff physician of a hospital may admit for observation, diagnosis, care and treatment any person who is mentally ill or who has symptoms of mental illness and who applies voluntarily therefor.
- (3) An authorized staff physician of a hospital shall discharge any voluntary patient who has recovered or whose hospitalization the staff physician determines to be no longer necessary or advisable.
- (4) A voluntary patient shall be released upon the patient's written request unless further detained under the applicable provisions of this chapter.

**Effective:** July 15, 1988

**History:** Amended 1988 Ky. Acts ch. 139, sec. 2, effective July 15, 1988. -- Amended 1986 Ky. Acts ch. 423, sec. 195, effective July 1, 1987. -- Created 1982 Ky. Acts ch. 445, sec. 2, effective July 1, 1982.

**Legislative Research Commission Note.** This section was enacted in 1982 Acts, Chapter 445, which contains the following language in Section 45 of that Act: "This Act shall become effective on July 1, 1982." The Ky. Constitution, in Section 55, requires that a reason be set forth for the emergency. However, no reason is set forth in this Act. The effective date for 1982 Acts with no emergency provision is July 15, 1982.