

## **Obtaining an Order of Detention (WRIT)**

A useful process if a client can not be petitioned or certified but is highly symptomatic and, as a result, may at some point in the near future be a danger to self or others.

- A writ can be obtained, in most cases by a family member or a loved one, at Chicago Read Hospital (off Irving Park Rd., 3 blocks west of Harlem). Present to the K Building (first building on the right when you enter the campus). They will issue writs on M, W, Th. or Fridays, it is suggested that you present at 8:30am.
- The client does not have to be present for the case to be heard by the judge.
- It is important for the family to document past and current behaviors that would lead the judge to understand that the loved one is very ill and may be a danger. This would include things like: past and recent threats, aggression, lack of medication compliance, bizarre behaviors, dangerous behaviors, inability to perform ADLS, number of past hospitalizations, previous involvement with police, etc.. The last month is the most weighted, so they are encouraged to be specific.
- A State's Attorney will meet with the family before the hearing and will counsel the family. The judge will allow local police and/or MH providers to be present.
- A judge will hear the case, if it is approved, he/she will write the order to have local police pick up the client (by force if necessary) and transport directly to the hospital. If possible, we should determine if the client should go directly to EMHC or Read first so the judge is made aware which hospital should be written into the order.
- The writ is good for 3 days, meaning the client must be transported to the hospital in that amount of time or it expires.
- If you have any questions call the Cook Co. Mental Health State's Attorney for Senior and Disabled persons @ (312) 603-8649 or 8646.