



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE HOSPITALS

REQUEST FOR EARLY EFFECTIVE DATE

HOSPITAL ACCESS SAFETY AND SECURITY SYSTEM REGULATION

California Code of Regulations
Title 9. Rehabilitative and Developmental Services
Division 1. Department of Mental Health
Chapter 16. State Hospital Operations

The Department of State Hospitals (DSH or the Department) requests that the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) complete an expedited review of this proposed regulation and, pursuant to Government Code section 11343.4, subdivision (b)(3), that this regulation become effective immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

The Department's request is based on the following good cause.

DSH provides mental health services to patients committed to DSH in a safe environment and in a fiscally responsible manner. DSH employs more than 11,000 staff and serves more than 12,000 patients annually in an inpatient hospital system.

DSH, in balancing its interest in maintaining the safety and security of patients, staff, and the public with its interest in encouraging patient autonomy, treatment participation, and overall wellness, developed a standardized hospital access system to enable patients to move about on the hospital grounds. Standardization ensures that each patient can expect to receive a fair evaluation according to the same criteria. Consequently, a standardized assessment of patient movement will increase staff efficiency, reduce waste and redundancy, and improve morale.

Any further delay in adopting the hospital access system prolongs any potential uncertainty that patients, staff, and the public may have on how access to state hospital areas is determined and how DSH balances safety and security with patient independence. This may create confusion for DSH patients and reduce participation in treatment – thereby potentially causing greater risk to themselves, staff, and the public.

Good cause existing, DSH respectfully requests that OAL complete an expedited review of this proposed regulation and that they become effective upon filing with the Secretary of State and asks that this request be granted.