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# Computer-Based Training: Understanding Mental Health Civil Commitment

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# Computer-Based Training: Understanding Mental Health Civil Commitment



## PURPOSE

- ❖ The purpose of this training is to enhance health and mental health professionals' knowledge about the mental health civil commitment law and process in Minnesota.
- ❖ The goal is upon completion of this training:
  - 1) Trainees will understand the mental health civil commitment law and process in Minnesota.
  - 2) Trainees will understand your role in the mental health civil commitment process.

## METHODOLOGY

Phase One: Met with practicum supervisor to determine a need of the hospital that the Capstone Project could fulfill.

- ❖ Practicum supervisor indicated a need for interdisciplinary team members to have access to a training on the Mental Health Civil Commitment Process.

Phase Two: Completed an extensive literature review with particular interest in the mental health civil commitment process.

- ❖ Reviewed thirty five documents which included government documents, journal articles, Minnesota State Statutes, and online resources.
- ❖ The review included information on mental health, the mental health civil commitment process, history of the mental health civil commitment process, issues with diverse populations and rural community impacts.

Phase Three: Developed the computer-based training.

- ❖ Compiled information into a power point presentation.
- ❖ Organization of the literature.
- ❖ Added addition of visual detail, interactive components, and web links.
- ❖ Created a 20 question post-test examination.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

As a result of the training, participants will:

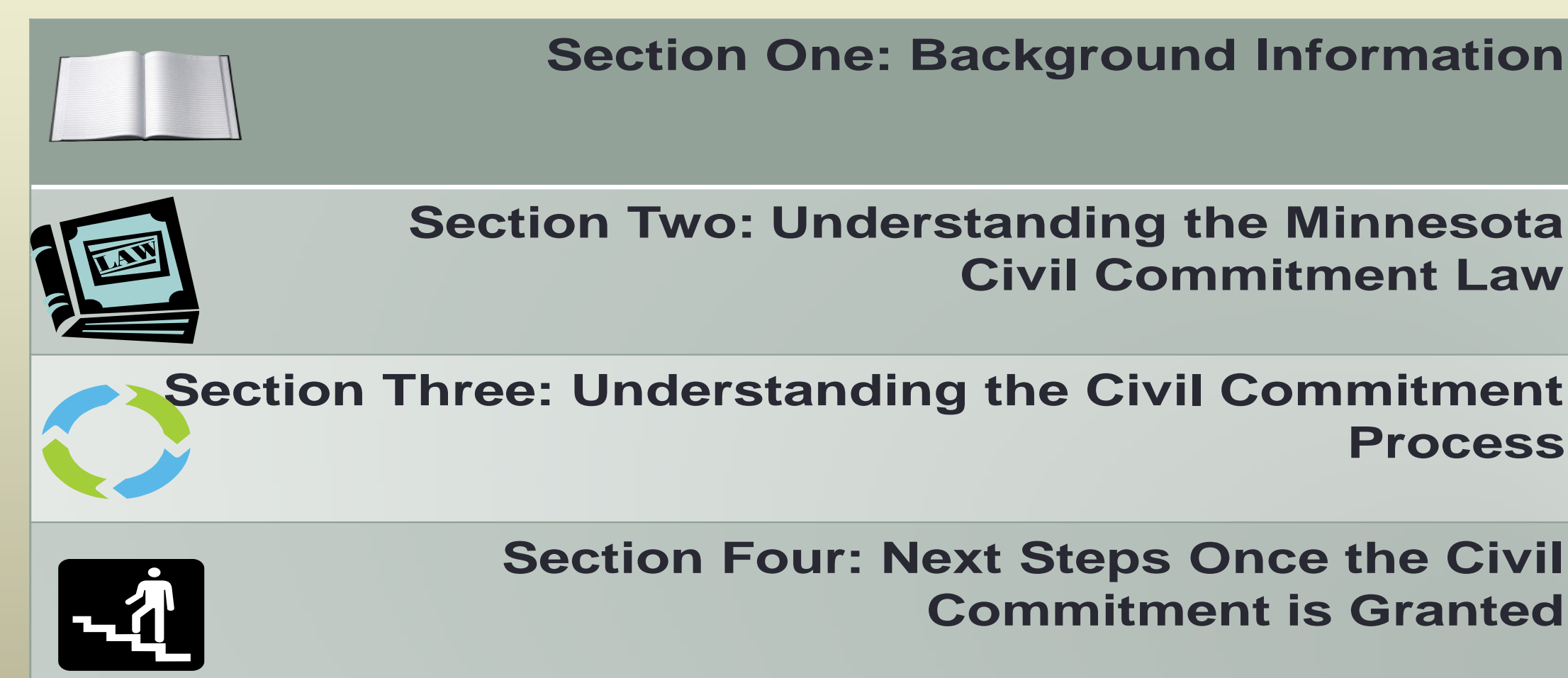
- ❖ Have a basic understanding of the definition of mental illness, definition of civil commitment, mental health civil commitment process, two main reasons for obtaining a civil commitment order, history of civil commitment, rural and small community implications, and issues associated with diverse populations.
- ❖ Understand the legal standard for civil commitment in Minnesota., and how to access Chapter 253B Minnesota Commitment and Treatment Act.
- ❖ Know the six steps involved in obtaining a civil commitment order, the role of county agencies and personnel in the civil commitment process, the role of the courts in the civil commitment process, and the rights of respondents in the civil commitment process.
- ❖ Understand the legal length of a civil commitment, the role of the county case manager, the process for extending the length of a civil commitment, and the definition of and use of a provisional discharge.

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## TRAINING CONTENT

### Getting Started

- This training has four sections:

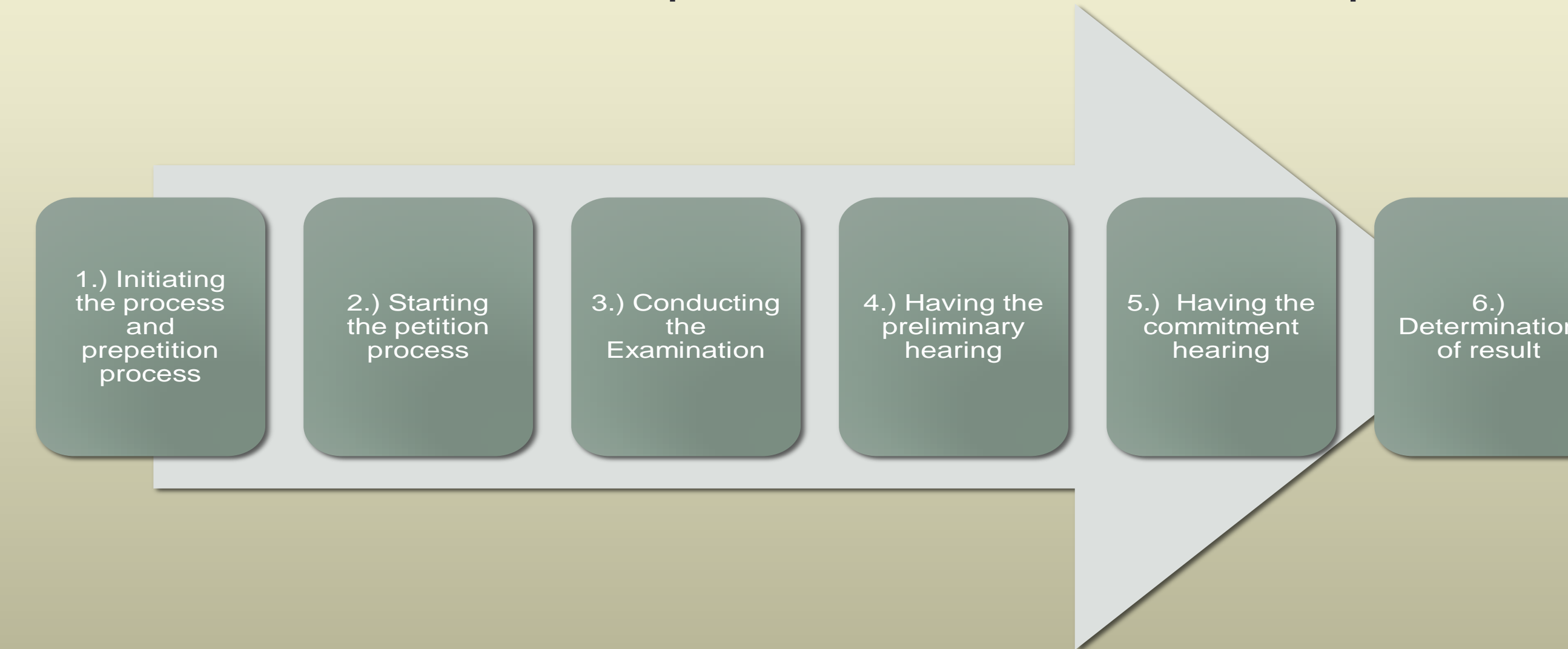


### Understanding the Minnesota Law for Civil Commitment: Legal Standard

- A person has to meet the legal standard in order for the court to issue a civil commitment order.
- Components of the standard include:
  - ✓ Diagnosed mental illness
  - ✓ Impaired ability to care for self
  - ✓ Threat to self or others

### The Process

- There are six main steps in the civil commitment process:



## KEY INFORMATION

- ❖ The Minnesota Commitment and Treatment Act, Chapter 253B, is the state statute that authorizes, defines, and provides guidelines for civil commitment in Minnesota.
- ❖ A person has to meet certain legal standards. Components of the standard include:
  - ✓ Diagnosed with a mental illness, impaired ability to care for self, and threat to self or others.
- ❖ The process starts by contacting the proper agency to request a prepetition screening or obtaining an emergency hold.
  - ✓ A prepetition screening report is completed by the prepetition screening team.
  - ✓ In this report the prepetition screening team makes a recommendation whether or not they support civil commitment.
- ❖ If there is a recommendation to commitment, an examination needs to take place by a licensed psychiatrist, licensed psychologist, or a court appointed examiner.
- ❖ There is a preliminary hearing where the judge will take a look at the settlement. If there is no settlement there will be a commitment hearing.
- ❖ At the commitment hearing, the judge makes the decision, based upon the (a) prepetition screening report, (b) examiner's report, and (c) other evidence obtained at the trial, if there is clear and compelling evidence for the respondent to be committed.
  - ✓ The initial commitment cannot exceed 6 months.

## RURAL & DIVERSITY

- ❖ In rural areas people diagnosed with a mental illness may be less likely to seek mental health services because there is less anonymity.
- ❖ Stigma attached to people who are diagnosed with a mental illness can influence people's decision to seek out mental health services.
- ❖ Overall, there is a shortage of mental health services in rural areas.
- ❖ While people who are white non-Hispanic continue to represent the majority of people in Minnesota, the racial and ethnic make-up of our state is changing
  - ✓ In Minnesota, the 65 and older population in 2010 was 683,121 (12.9%).
  - ✓ From 2000 to 2010 the 65 and older population increased by 88,855 people.
- ❖ In Chapter 253B.212 of the Minnesota Treatment and Commitment Act there is specific information that applies to the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians.

## IMPLICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ This computer-based training will be available at Mayo Health System, Mankato, where it will be utilized as a resource for social workers and other staff to receive education on the mental health civil commitment law and process in Minnesota.
- ❖ The Mayo Health System, Mankato:
  - ✓ Should determine a way to offer CE hours to social workers and other staff who complete the training.
  - ✓ Will need to periodically update the information to ensure the training reflects current state statute.
  - ✓ Should consider implementing a pre-test along with the post-test to determine the effectiveness of the training in achieving the goals of objectives of the training.

## REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST