

## Emergency Services

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Emergencies are situations that rise beyond the level of crisis, when someone presents a danger to him/herself or others. If you or someone you support is in need of emergency services, please call the Montgomery County Emergency Services (MCES) hotline is available at: **(610) 279-6100**.

An emergency examination will be conducted to determine whether someone's needs are intensive enough for acute inpatient treatment, and can be provided regardless of the person's health insurance status.

### Voluntary vs. Involuntary Commitment

Individuals in crisis are encouraged to consent to treatment; this is called a **voluntary commitment** and is often referred to as "signing in as a 201."

When psychiatric emergencies escalate into a serious and potentially life-threatening situation, and the person is *unwilling* to consent to treatment, the law empowers the Office of Mental Health to authorize treatment without the individual's consent. This is called **involuntary commitment**, sometimes referred to as a "302." The process requires that a witness file a petition, and attend a hearing to testify about the information they provided. For more information or support with the petition process, please call **(610) 279-6100** and ask to speak to one of the mental health delegates.

**Involuntary commitment is a serious step that temporarily suspends a person's rights in favor of their safety. It should be viewed as a last resort and only pursued after other options (such as Mobile Crisis) have been unsuccessful. Mobile Crisis can be reached at 1-855-634-4673.**