



MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

P.O. BOX 157-A, WHITFIELD, MS 39193

(601) 351-8000

WWW.MSH.STATE.MS.US

James G. Chastain, FACHE
Director

November 1st, 2023

Dear Honorable Judges of the State of Mississippi,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to inform you of an important update regarding the procedures for conducting initial evaluations of competency and sanity within the Mississippi State Hospital's Forensic Services Division.

Effective today, Forensic Services at Mississippi State Hospital (MSH) will no longer conduct initial evaluations of competency or sanity directly. Instead, we have transitioned to a new approach in which certified evaluators, financially compensated by individual counties, will be responsible for conducting these evaluations, which our administrative staff will facilitate. This change is aimed at streamlining the process and ensuring the provision of care for those individuals who are most in need of these crucial forensic services.

Evaluation orders received prior to November 1st, 2023 will be completed as ordered by MSH staff at no cost to counties.

For your convenience and to provide you with comprehensive guidance, we have established a dedicated webpage where you can find detailed information, including required form orders, instructions, and additional resources related to these evaluations. You can access these resources at [URL]: forensicservices.msh.ms.gov.

If you have any questions or require further information about this transition, please visit our website or contact our administrator, Trey Haire, at 601-351-8408. We are looking forward to addressing any concerns and providing any assistance you may need during this transition period.

We believe that this change will ultimately result in improved access to critical forensic services and better serve the needs of our communities.

Sincerely,

Thomas Recore, M.D.
Clinical and Forensic Psychiatrist
DMH Forensic Liaison
Mississippi Department of Mental Health
thomas.recore@msh.ms.gov
601-351-8000 x4986

A FACILITY OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

ACCREDITED BY THE JOINT COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION OF HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS