

# Position Statement on the Civil Commitment of Minors

Approved by the Board of Trustees, December 2021

Approved by the Assembly, November 2021

“Policy documents are approved by the APA Assembly and Board of Trustees. . . These are . . . position statements that define APA official policy on specific subjects. . .” – *APA Operations Manual*

### **Issue:**

The APA recently adopted a *Position Statement on Voluntary and Involuntary Hospitalization of Adults with Mental Illness*. This Position Statement extends the principles of civil commitment of adults to minors.

### **APA Position:**

**In any case in which a minor has been determined to be in need of inpatient hospitalization and neither the minor nor a parent or guardian has provided valid consent under state law, the minor should be admitted in accordance with the principles and procedures laid out in the *APA Position Statement on Voluntary and Involuntary Hospitalization of Adults with Mental Illness*. Formal civil commitment proceedings and commitment standards for minors should not differ significantly from similar procedures for adults.**

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