

**59-2964. Continuance of hearings; order of referral for short-term treatment.** (a) The patient at any time may request, in writing, that any further proceedings be continued for not more than three months so that the court may make an order of continuance and referral for short-term treatment. The written request must be acknowledged before a notary public or a judge of the district court. The patient may request successive orders of continuance and referral. Upon receipt of such a request, the court may order the patient referred for short-term treatment to a designated treatment facility for a specified period of time not to exceed three months from the date the request is signed by the patient. An order of referral for short-term treatment in a treatment facility other than a state psychiatric hospital shall be conditioned upon the consent of the head of that treatment facility to accept the patient. No order may be issued for referral to a state psychiatric hospital, unless a written statement from a qualified mental health professional authorizing such admission and treatment at a state psychiatric hospital has been filed with the court. The court may not issue an order of referral unless the attorney representing the patient has filed a statement, in writing, that the attorney has explained to the patient the nature of an order of referral and the right of the patient to have the further proceedings conducted as scheduled.

(b) If the patient's request for an order for referral for short-term treatment is made prior to the hearing required to be held pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 59-2959 or 59-2962 and amendments thereto, and granted, it shall constitute a waiver of the patient's right to this hearing.

(c) Within any order of continuance and referral, the court shall confirm the new date and time set for the trial and direct that a copy of the court's order shall be given to the patient, to the attorney representing the patient, the petitioner or the county or district attorney as appropriate, the patient's legal guardian if there is one, the patient's spouse or nearest relative as appropriate, the head of the treatment facility to which the patient is being referred, and such other persons as the court directs. Any trial so continued shall then be held on the date set at the end of the referral period, unless again continued by the court upon the patient's request for another order of continuance and referral, or on the date set in any order of continuance necessitated by the patient's demand for a jury trial.

(d) Not later than 14 days prior to the date set for the trial provided for in K.S.A. 59-2965 and amendments thereto by any order of continuance and referral, unless the proposed patient has been accepted as a voluntary patient by the treatment facility or unless the proposed patient has filed a written request for another successive period of continuance and referral, the facility treating the proposed patient shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the court, which report also shall be made available to counsel for the parties. The report also shall be made available to the proposed patient and to whomever the patient directs, unless for good cause recited in the order, the court orders otherwise.

**History:** L. 1996, ch. 167, § 20; L. 1998, ch. 134, § 47; July 1.