

 Office of Mental Health	Date issued 08/25/23	Supersedes 04/01/07	Page 1 of 1	Section # A-3017
	Section: Administration			
	Directive: Missing Patient Reporting			
	Policy Owner: Director, Administrative Support Services Group			
Official Policy Manual				

DEFINITIONS

Missing Patient - a patient of a psychiatric hospital or unit, a residential treatment facility for Children and Youth, a residential services program licensed by the Office of Mental Health, or a family care home, who has not been accounted for when expected to be present and who has not been found on the facility grounds or other expected location, or who is known to have left the hospital grounds without permission. Such terms shall also include a patient in an inpatient program who is known to have left the facility grounds without the permission of a staff member when such permission is otherwise required. Missing patient includes the following three categories:

Missing Patient – Absent means a missing person who is not otherwise considered to be an endangered person or an escaped person.

Missing Patient – Endangered means an inpatient who is:

1. Considered to be dangerous to self or unable to care for self; and/or
2. not otherwise considered to be an escaped person.

Missing Patient – Escaped means an inpatient who

1. Is considered to be dangerous to others or unable to care for self.
2. was committed under a court order pursuant to the Criminal Procedure Law or Correction Law, regardless of any subsequent conversion to civil status, or remains subject to an order of conditions pursuant to section 330.20 of the Criminal Procedure Law (NOTE: This category does not include non-dangerous persons committed pursuant to Article 730 of the Criminal Procedure Law whose criminal charges have been dismissed); or
3. is currently committed pursuant to the Family Court Act; or
4. was transferred from the Division for Youth in accordance with Executive Law section 509.

Relevant Laws and Statutes

- Criminal Procedure Law § 330.20
- Correction Law § 730
- Executive Law § 509

Missing Patient’s Reporting

Safety’s role in reporting must follow the directives as referenced in Section# QA-520 Quality Assurance – Reporting and Investigation of Missing Persons, and Facility specific policy. Every effort must be made to locate the missing patient including notification to local law enforcement.