

Psych Meds: Court Discusses Grounds For Involuntary Administration.

While the individual was in jail awaiting trial on criminal charges the county filed a petition to have him committed instead for treatment as a mentally-ill person.

The Court of Appeals of Minnesota agreed with that approach and expressly authorized involuntary administration of neuroleptic medications for treatment of paranoid schizophrenia.

Disagreement by the patient with caregivers' plans to start medication, in and of itself, is not evidence of a mental illness or grounds for involuntary administration.

However, in this case the psychiatric clinical nurse specialist and the psychiatrist reported statements from the patient that the county wanted to medicate him as part of a scheme to silence him from exposing criminal wrongdoing by county officials, statements they both characterized as grandiose, paranoid and delusional.

That is, according to the court, the patient's mental illness itself stood in the way of him being able to make the reasoned decision a cogent patient would be entitled to make for himself after weighing the benefits, risks and side effects of taking medication. **Commitment of Sideen, 2008 WL 4629516 (Minn. App., October 21, 2008).**