

This Guide Does Not Contain Legal Advice

This Guide is intended to provide introductory non-technical information about the Montgomery County, Pennsylvania criminal justice and mental health systems. It does not contain legal advice.

The Pennsylvania criminal justice system can vary considerably from county to county. Each jurisdiction can have distinct local police enforcement, laws, courts, jails, and post-incarceration services. Your city or county may determine whether criminal justice personnel are trained to handle mental health crisis or treatment, whether there is jail diversion at different points in the system, and what rules and structure apply in jail and other stages of the system. In addition, the types of available public psychiatric services, procedures for their access, and pertinent legal provisions also vary widely. All of the information in this guide will not be applicable to each specific jurisdiction. Please consult appropriate mental health, advocacy, and/or legal resources to learn about the applicable service mechanisms, procedures, and laws for the jurisdiction with which the person with mental illness has encountered.