



Transcript: Justices Examination Orders (JEO)

Name	Dialogue / Actions
Richard	Hi again, I'm Richard. This scenario takes you through the process for getting a patient called Jack assessed under a justices examination order. The story commences with a phone conversation between Edward, an authorised mental health practitioner and Jack's daughter.
Edward	Good morning Mental Health Assessment team, Blue Waters Health Service, Edward speaking.
Marie	Good Morning, my name's Marie. I'm just calling to ask for advice on how I can get my Dad some mental health help.
Edward	I can certainly provide you with some advice on how to access mental health services for your father, however I will need to ask you a couple of questions to help you decide which is the best way this could happen. First, can you tell me a bit about your father, sorry Marie, what did you say his name was?
Marie	Jack, Jack Malone.
Edward	Can you tell me why you believe your father, Jack, requires mental health assessment.
Marie	My Dad is 73 and cares for my mother who's 68 in their own home. She has arthritis and heart problems. They have care workers that come in twice a week to help with Mum's showering and Dad has managed fairly well preparing simple meals and caring for them both. On my last couple of visits I've noticed that Dad has become quite suspicious of people coming to the house and is accusing mum of having an affair. Mum's told me that he's become quite verbally aggressive toward her but he hasn't been physically aggressive. The care workers have also contacted me voicing their concern about his mental state and their supervisor advised me to contact a mental health service. That's how I got this number.
Edward	Yes Marie, I can see why you would be concerned. There are a number of risks that you have identified. Have you spoken to your Dad about coming to the authorised mental health service to be assessed or to the GP, who he has a relationship with? Perhaps the GP could do a home visit to assess your Dad?
Marie	That's the thing, Dad believes Mum is having the affair with a man. I've tried to talk to Dad about arranging the GP to come, but he'll only let the care workers or me into the house. Dad refuses to leave the house and will not even listen to any reason about his beliefs or behaviours.
Edward	I understand your concerns Marie. Has your Dad ever been treated for a mental illness before?
Marie	Yes, it was some years ago, but he was being treated for depression and he did have a period where I believe, they called it psychotic depression, where he was admitted to a hospital. I guess that's my fear at the moment, some of the things he's saying is similar to that time.
Edward	What you've described about your father's behaviours and thought processes is concerning, particularly with his history of mental illness presentation and treatment it does seem to pose increased risk to the safety of himself and your mother. From what you've said it is unlikely that he will



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	allow any other person to enter his premises, is that correct?
Marie	Seriously, I've tried on a number of occasions to get him to agree, he won't even let my partner visit. Paul has to wait outside if he comes with me. I'm concerned that if he deteriorates much more there's a risk of him not letting myself or the carers in and therefore, what happens to mum. I'm sorry; I'm just a little bit overwhelmed with everything that's happening at the moment.
Edward	Oh Marie, it sounds so frustrating. There are two options that I will now go through with you, that at this point seem to be the most likely given your dad's situation and the urgency of the matter.
Marie	That would be great.
Edward	Okay, the first option if he won't voluntarily agree to go or to receive a visit from his GP or mental health service is a justices examination order. This requires you to go to your local court house and complete an 'application for justices examination order' form that is sworn before a Queensland Justice of the Peace or filed before the registrar of a Queensland Magistrates Court. On that form you need to detail why you believe your Dad has a mental illness, details of the alternative ways of obtaining help that have been tried, and why he should be examined under a justices examination order. If the Magistrate or Queensland Justice of the Peace makes a justices examination order from the information on the application, they will then fax the form through to the nearest authorised mental health service which will arrange for mental health staff from the assessment team to come to your Dad's place and have a chat with him. The justices examination order permits entry for examination and given the information you have outlined, the assessment team may request assistance of the police, for entry and safety reasons. Once seen by the assessment team, if all the assessment criteria are met, they can then complete the forms that will authorise his transport to the authorised mental health service for an assessment by an authorised doctor.
Marie	How long does all that take?
Edward	The justices examination order must state the time when it is to end, it must not be more than 7 days after the order is made.
Marie	Okay, so what's the second option?
Edward	It's called an emergency examination order and is used in emergency situations where there is an imminent risk of physical harm to your Dad or another person, and where proceeding under a justices examination order would cause a dangerous delay and significantly increase the risk of harm. If this is the case, you can call the police and or an ambulance for help. They can attend and will determine if the criteria are met for an emergency examination order. That will allow them to transfer your Dad to an authorised mental health service for examination.
Marie	I didn't know you could call the police or ambulance for mental health issues, that is really good for both me and my mum to know. I don't think the situation is an emergency but I think that things are going to get worse. I'll go to my local court house to start the application for a justices examination order.
Edward	That's good Marie, but if your dad is willing to be assessed, you can give us a call, and if the situation gets worse, please don't hesitate to call the police



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	or an ambulance.
Marie	That makes sense, thank you so much for your advice and taking the time to talk to me this morning, I really do appreciate it.
Richard	The authorised mental health service receives the justices examination order and begins the process for actioning it. The next part of this scenario is a conversation between Isobel and Edward, who are both authorised mental health practitioners, about what needs to be done now in order to get Jack assessed under the justices examination order.
Edward	<p>Good morning Isobel, we've just had this justices examination order sent through to us. I've read the details set out within the order and think that we would be best completing a <i>request for police assistance</i> form.</p> <p>Jack is 73 with a history of psychotic depression. He looks after his wife at home and is currently paranoid that she's having an affair. He isn't letting anyone except his daughter and community care workers into the house and has been verbally abusive to his wife.</p>
Isobel	I agree with doing a <i>request for police assistance</i> due to the safety concerns.
Edward	That's good Isobel, I'll just fax the <i>request for police assistance</i> through and follow up with a phone call to organise a time and will let you know.
Isobel	Thanks Edward.
Richard	<p>Edward faxed the <i>request for police assistance</i> and made the phone call to the local police station as discussed. A time was arranged with the police for later that day to meet at Jack's house. It was explained to Jack that there were concerns that he was having difficulties and the justices examination order authorises a doctor or an authorised mental health practitioner to undertake an examination. Jack was reluctant to talk, but after being shown the justices examination order he agreed to allow the team into the house to carry out the examination. After assessing the situation, and discussions with the staff, the police officers agreed to wait outside while the examination took place.</p> <p>It was quickly established by the team that Jack required further assessment at the authorised mental health service. The assessment documents (<i>request for assessment and recommendation for assessment</i>) were completed and Jack was transported to the authorised mental health service to be assessed by an authorised doctor.</p> <p>If it had been determined that Jack did not meet the criteria for the completion of a <i>recommendation for assessment</i> form the reasons would have been documented on the justices examination order form as well as the outcome of discussions with a consultant psychiatrist.</p> <p>Now that you've completed Jack's scenario, click the 'Study' tab to explore justices examination orders in more detail. And when you're ready, click the 'Assessment' tab to complete the assessment questions on this topic.</p> <p>That's it for me for a while. In the next scenario you'll meet Michael, our Forensic Liaison Officer. He'll take you through the classified and forensic patient provisions of the Mental Health Act.</p>