



Ohio Revised Code

Section 5119.15 Investigative powers.

Effective: September 30, 2025

Legislation: House Bill 96

The department of behavioral health may make such investigations as are necessary in the performance of its duties and to that end the director of behavioral health shall have the same power as a judge of a county court to administer oaths and to enforce the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of books or papers.

The department shall keep a record of such investigations stating the time, place, charges or subject, witnesses summoned and examined, and its conclusions.

In matters involving the conduct of an officer, a stenographic report of the evidence shall be taken and a copy of such report, with all documents introduced, kept on file at the office of the department.

The fees of witnesses for attendance and travel shall be the same as in the court of common pleas, but no officer or employee of the institution under investigation is entitled to such fees.

Any judge of the probate court or of the court of common pleas, upon application of the department, may compel the attendance of witnesses, the production of books or papers, and the giving of testimony before the department, by a judgment for contempt or otherwise, in the same manner as in cases before such courts.

The department of behavioral health may appoint and commission any competent agency or person, to serve without compensation, as a special agent, investigator, or representative to perform a designated duty for the department. Specific credentials shall be given by the department to each person so designated. Each credential shall state the:

(A) Name of the agent, investigator, or representative;

(B) Agency with which such person is connected;



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(C) Purpose of appointment;

(D) Date of expiration of appointment;

(E) Such information as the department considers proper.
