ROLES AND POWERS OF THE CONSTABLE UNDER THE MENTAL HEALTH LAW
DEFINITIONS

**Constable** – means a police officer of the rank of constable of any grade and includes a recruit constable, auxiliary constable and community support officer.

**Mental health professional** – means a practitioner registered in a mental health category under the Health Practice Law (2005 Revision).

**Mental Impairment** – means a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind, which may or may not be due to a trauma or injury and includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning and which may or may not manifest itself in abnormally aggressive or seriously irresponsible conduct.

**Nearest Relative** – a person of at least eighteen years of age, whether or not living in the Islands, who is-
   a) spouse or common law partner
   b) son or daughter
   c) parent or legal guardian
   d) brother or sister
   e) grandparent
   f) grandchild
   g) uncle or aunt
   h) nephew or niece
   i) a social worker or probation officer employed in that capacity in government or a statutory body
   j) attorney at law of the person concerned
   k) the mental health professional treating the person concerned
   l) close friend

**Place of safety** – means a place declared under section 20 for purposes of receiving and caring for persons.

**Serious mental illness** – a substantial disorder of thought, mood, perception, orientation or memory which-
   1. grossly impairs a person’s –
      i) judgement
      ii) behaviour
      iii) capacity to recognise reality
      iv) ability to meet the ordinary demands of life OR
   2. poses a danger to the person concerned or others
   but does not include a sole diagnosis of alcoholism or drug abuse, that is, a diagnosis of alcoholism or drug abuse without any other ailment of a mental nature.

The constable is allowed to detain a person if they believe that the person has a mental impairment or a serious mental illness and he/she may cause harm to self or others.