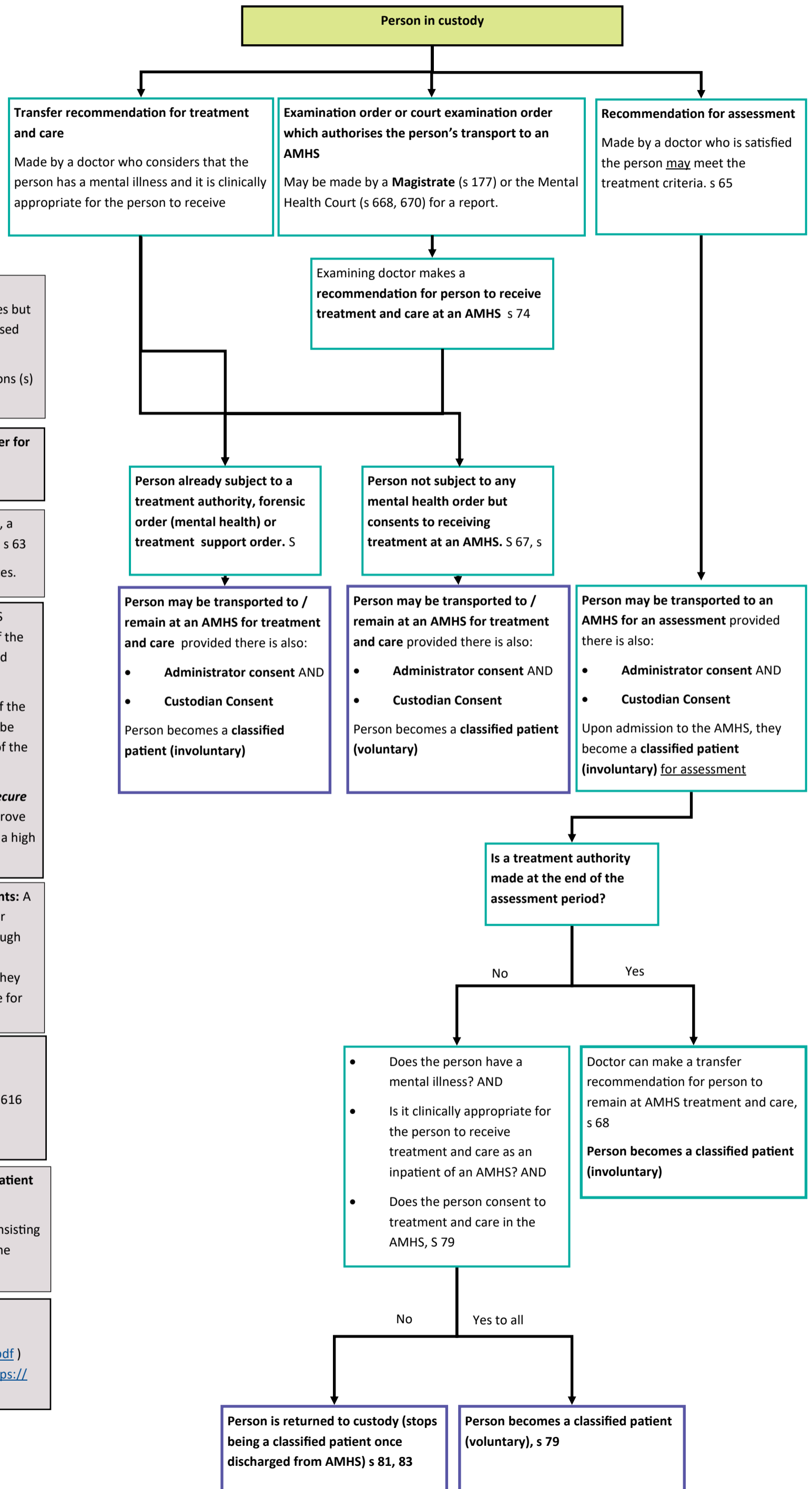


## 9. Becoming a Classified Patient



Classified patients refer to patients that are in custody for pending or finalised criminal charges but **require assessment or treatment** in an authorised mental health service (AMHS).  
Unless otherwise specified, references to sections (s) are from the *Mental Health Act 2016* (Qld)

**A person may become a classified patient either for assessment OR for treatment and care.**

**Custody** refers to a person detained in a prison, a Police watch-house, or youth detention centre. s 63  
Prisons are not authorised mental health services.

**Administrator Consent s 69:** the relevant AMHS administrator must consent to the admission of the person to the inpatient unit at the AMHS (signed consent form).  
**Custodian Consent s 71:** the person in charge of the relevant prison must consent for the person to be transported and admitted to an inpatient unit of the AMHS (signed consent form).  
**Chief Psychiatrist Consent (for minor to high secure unit ONLY) s 70:** The Chief Psychiatrist must approve the transport of a person under 18 years old to a high security unit.

**Forensic Order (Disability) and Classified Patients:** A person in custody who is under a Forensic Order (Disability) can become a classified patient through the process outlines as long as they require assessment or treatment for a **mental illness**. They cannot be admitted for the sole purpose of care for intellectual or cognitive disability.

**Classified patients and criminal proceedings**  
All criminal proceedings against a patient are suspended while they are a classified patient. s 616  
The court can still grant bail and have charges withdrawn. s 620

**Limited community treatment as a classified patient**  
An authorised doctor can only approve limited community treatment for classified patients consisting of escorted on the grounds of the AMHS with the written approval of the Chief Psychiatrist. S 219

See also the Chief Psychiatrist's Policy ([https://www.health.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0025/465172/cpp-classified-patients.pdf](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0025/465172/cpp-classified-patients.pdf)) and Chief Psychiatrist's Practice Guidelines (<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/?a=573997>)