

American Legion Service Officer Report
July 4, 2022

Still learning on the job.
Picked up a voicemail.
"I'm on a 5250 hold. I need a VA advocate."
I'm thinking he really is nuts. It's a 5150 hold.
But, in case he knows something I don't know...
I look it up.

It seems that after your 5150 hold is timed out, you can still be held as a 5250 hold if you are a danger to yourself, to others, or you are unable to take care of yourself.

He has a right to a hearing, and has to be provided an advocate.

Veteran asked me to contact his girl friend. Confirmed from talking with her that self harm was definitely on the table. Discussed Moral Injury and Survivor's Remorse with her.

Contacted John Healy of the American Legion in Placer county, where the Veteran is being held, and because John actually knows what he is doing.

"Due to HIPPA you cannot tell the VA. The facility has to provide his advocate."

Veteran is out there now, and I am concerned he is incapable of making healthy choices.

Second learning experience:

Visit young Veteran in jail.

Type of discharge?
General under other than honorable.
That's my first.

He has a bad reenlistment code. Did not serve long enough for VA healthcare, I think. Claims no injury of any kind while serving.

Refer him to county VSO to see what they can do for him. Maybe a Veteran designation on his driver's license?

His discharge plan?
Go live with mom.
He will walk past the VSO office on his way to mom's.
Hopefully, he will go in.

David Zelinsky
Service Officer