



715 [1980])). We reject respondent's argument that the issue raised in this proceeding is unlikely to recur (see e.g. *State of N.Y. ex rel. Karur v Carmichael*, 41 AD3d 349, 350 [1st Dept 2007])).

As respondent now concedes, the letter submitted by petitioner on the day he was involuntary admitted to Lincoln Hospital reasonably conveyed that he sought a "hearing on the question of need for involuntary care and treatment" (MHL § 9.31[a]), and should have been forwarded to the appropriate court "forthwith" (*id.* § 9.31[b]). The handwritten letter says, "I am falsely imprisoned and deprived of liberty," in violation of certain United States Supreme Court decisions, "I demand a jury trial immediately," and "I demand my lawyer." To the extent the court found the request in this letter insufficiently clear or formal, because there were other, unrelated complaints raised in the letter or for any other reason, this was error. The letter should have been interpreted reasonably to effectuate the

statute's purpose of allowing patients to challenge their involuntary confinement on an expedited basis, as required by MHL § 9.31.

THIS CONSTITUTES THE DECISION AND ORDER OF THE SUPREME COURT, APPELLATE DIVISION, FIRST DEPARTMENT.

ENTERED: MAY 10, 2018

  
CLERK