

Alaska State Report Card

Last Updated: January 1, 2024

Method and scoring: State involuntary civil commitment laws are evaluated using a 100-point grading scale. The scoring criteria are in accordance with the Treatment Advocacy Center’s values and policy preferences. Up to 50 points are awarded to a state based on the quality of its inpatient commitment law, and up to 50 points are awarded based on the state’s assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) law. Final letter grades are computed using the following scale:

97 or above	A+	87–89	B+	77–79	C+	67–69	D+	59 or below	F
93–96	A	83–86	B	73–76	C	63–66	D		
90–92	A-	80–82	B-	70–72	C-	60–62	D-		

PART ONE: Inpatient Commitment Statute (up to 50 points)			
Criterion	Citation	Specifications	Points
1. Citizen access to court, emergency evaluation (5 pts)	Alaska Stat. § 47.30.700(a)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Authorizes family/enumerated adults (3 pts) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Authorizes any responsible adult (2 pts)	5
2. Quality of emergency petition process (5 pts)	Alaska Stat. § 47.30.700(a) Alaska Stat. § 47.30.710(a)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Process specified and reasonable (2 pts) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timelines specified and reasonable (2 pts) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsible entities identified (1 pt) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requires certification by more than one professional (-2 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency evaluation criteria inconsistent with inpatient commitment criteria (-5 pts)	3
3. Emergency hold duration (5 pts)	Alaska Stat. § 47.30.715	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At least 48-hour hold allowed (3 pts) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At least 72-hour hold allowed (2 pts) 72 hours	5
4. Citizen access to court, inpatient petition (5 pts)	Alaska Stat. § 47.30.730(a)	<input type="checkbox"/> Authorizes family/enumerated adults (3 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Authorizes any responsible adult (2 pts) Two examining mental health professionals	0
5. Quality of criteria for harm or violence to self or others (up to 10 pts)	Alaska Stat. §§ 47.30.915 (12)(A)–(C)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contains explicit criteria (10 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Language is vague/ambiguous (-3 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Harm must be imminent (-3 pts)	10
6. Quality of criteria for grave disability/basic needs (up to 10 pts)	Alaska Stat. § 47.30.915(9)(A)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contains explicit criteria (10 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Language is vague/ambiguous (-3 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Endangerment must be imminent (-3 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Criteria require family to turn person out of home to receive treatment (-3 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Unreasonably high risk of harm (-3 pts)	10
7. Quality of criteria for psychiatric deterioration (up to 10 pts)	Alaska Stat. § 47.30.915(9)(B)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contains explicit criteria (10 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Language is vague/ambiguous (-3 pts) (See comments below)	10
SUBTOTAL			43
PART ONE: Extra Credit			
1. Specifies in which court a petition for inpatient commitment shall be filed (1 pt)	Alaska Stat. § 47.30.915	“A superior court of the state”	1
Extra Credit			1
PART ONE TOTAL			44

PART TWO: Outpatient Commitment Statute (up to 50 points)			
Criterion	Citation	Specifications	Points
1. AOT explicitly authorized (5 pts)	Alaska Stat. § 47.30.755(b)	<input type="checkbox"/> Requires local government to adopt (-3 pts)	5
2. Citizen access to court for AOT (5 pts)	Alaska Stat. § 47.30.755(b)	<input type="checkbox"/> Authorizes family/enumerated adults (3 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Authorizes any responsible adult (2 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Authorizes citizen petition to mental health system only (-2 pts)	0

3. Criteria sufficiently broad to provide actual access (up to 10 pts)	Alaska Stat. §§ 47.30.915 (12)(A)–(C)	<p>Evaluate applicable provision only:</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If inpatient/outpatient criteria are the same: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inpatient criteria include psychiatric deterioration standard (10 pts) <u>or</u> <input type="checkbox"/> No psychiatric deterioration standard, adequate grave disability standard (5 pts) (See comment below) <p>or</p> <input type="checkbox"/> If outpatient criteria are distinct from inpatient criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Allows consideration of length of treatment history ≥ 36 months (2 pts) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Does not exclude periods of incarceration or hospitalization (-1 pt) <input type="checkbox"/> Does not limit application to those currently dangerous or unstable (4 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Does not limit application to those refusing service or currently lacking insight (4 pts) 	10
4. Authorizes AOT directly from community (5 pts)	Alaska Stat. § 47.30.730(a)(2)	Petition for 30-day commitment (inpatient or outpatient) must be filed in the course of a 72-hour hold	5
5. Procedures sufficiently detailed to guide practitioners (up to 5 pts)	Alaska Stat. § 47.30.755(b)	<input type="checkbox"/> Process specified and reasonable (1 pt) <input type="checkbox"/> Timelines specified and reasonable (1 pt) <input type="checkbox"/> Responsible entities identified (1 pt) <input type="checkbox"/> Periodic reporting to court required (1 pt) <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal process expressly specified (1 pt)	0
6. Procedures require the treatment plan to be shared with the court (5 pts)	Alaska Stat. § 47.30.755(b)		0
7. Specifies procedures and consequences for nonadherence (5 pts)	Alaska Stat. § 47.30.755(b)		0
8. Duration of initial order	Alaska Stat. §§ 47.30.730(5), 47.30.755(b)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = 90 days (2 pts) <u>or</u> <input type="checkbox"/> > 90 days (5 pts)	2
9. Duration of continued order	Alaska Stat. §§ 47.30.755(b), 47.30.770(c)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = 180 days (2 pts) <u>or</u> <input type="checkbox"/> > 180 days (5 pts)	2
SUBTOTAL			24
PART TWO: Extra Credit			
1. Specifies court for AOT (1 pt)	Alaska Stat. § 47.30.915	“A superior court of the state”	1
2. Court monitoring of voluntary settlement agreements (5 pts)			
Extra Credit			1
PART TWO TOTAL			25
FINAL SCORE			
PART ONE TOTAL			44
PART TWO TOTAL			25
TOTAL			69
GRADE			D+

Comments:

- There is a discrepancy in Alaska’s commitment standard as it includes the term “likely to cause harm,” while the term defined is “likely to cause serious harm.”
- The shared standard is broad. However, if the court finds a less restrictive alternative (AOT) available, the individual must refuse voluntary treatment to trigger a court order, a requirement that can artificially limit eligibility.