

Iowa State Report Card

Last Updated: January 2025

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)	Iowa Code § 229.6(1)	<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)	Iowa Code §§ 229.11(1), 229.22	<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 type="checkbox"/> Requires certification by more than one professional (-2 pts) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emergency evaluation criteria inconsistent with inpatient commitment criteria (-5 pts) (See comment below)	0
3. Emergency hold duration (5 pts)	Iowa Code § 229.22(3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At least 48-hour hold allowed (3 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> At least 72-hour hold allowed (2 pts) Not to exceed 48 hours	3
4. Citizen access to court, inpatient petition (5 pts)	Iowa Code § 229.6(1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Authorizes family/enumerated adults (3 pts) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Authorizes any responsible adult (2 pts)	5
5. Quality of criteria for harm or violence to self or others (up to 10 pts)	Iowa Code §§ 229.1(22)	<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)	Iowa Code § 229.1(22)(c)	<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)		<input type="checkbox"/> Contains explicit criteria (10 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Language is vague/ambiguous (-3 pts)	0
SUBTOTAL			33
PART ONE: Extra Credit			
1. Specifies in which court a petition for inpatient commitment shall be filed (1 pt)	Iowa Code § 229.6(1)	District court	1
Extra Credit			1
PART ONE TOTAL			34

PART TWO: Outpatient Commitment Statute (up to 50 points)			
Criterion	Citation	Specifications	Points
1. AOT explicitly authorized (5 pts)	Iowa Code § 229.13(1)(a), (b)	<input type="checkbox"/> Requires local government to adopt (-3 pts)	5
2. Citizen access to court for AOT (5 pts)	Iowa Code § 229.6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Authorizes family/enumerated adults (3 pts) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Authorizes any responsible adult (2 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Authorizes citizen petition to mental health system only (-2 pts)	5

3. Criteria sufficiently broad to provide actual access (up to 10 pts)	Iowa Code § 229.1(20)(d)	Evaluate applicable provision only: <input type="checkbox"/> If inpatient/outpatient criteria are the same: <input 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) <u>or</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If outpatient criteria are distinct from inpatient criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allows consideration of length of treatment history ≥ 36 months (2 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Does not exclude periods of incarceration or hospitalization (-1 pt) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Does not limit application to those currently dangerous or unstable (4 pts) <input checked="" 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)	Iowa Code § 229.13		5
5. Procedures sufficiently detailed to guide practitioners (up to 5 pts)	Iowa Code §§ 229.13, 229.14, and 229.15	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Process specified and reasonable (1 pt) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timelines specified and reasonable (1 pt) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsible entities identified (1 pt) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Periodic reporting to court required (1 pt) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Renewal process expressly specified (1 pt)	5
6. Procedures require the treatment plan to be shared with the court (5 pts)			0
7. Specifies procedures and consequences for nonadherence (5 pts)	Iowa Code §§ 229.13(7), 229.14(2)(d)		5
8. Duration of initial order	Iowa Code §§ 229.13, 229.15	<input type="checkbox"/> = 90 days (2 pts) <u>or</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> > 90 days (5 pts) <i>Indefinite term</i>	5
9. Duration of continued order		<input type="checkbox"/> = 180 days (2 pts) <u>or</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> > 180 days (5 pts) <i>No need for continuations because initial order is periodically reviewed but indefinite in length</i>	5
SUBTOTAL			45
PART TWO: Extra Credit			
1. Specifies court for AOT (1 pt)	Iowa Code § 229.6	<i>District court</i>	1
2. Court monitoring of voluntary settlement agreements (5 pts)			
Extra Credit			1
PART TWO TOTAL			46
FINAL SCORE			
PART ONE TOTAL			34
PART TWO TOTAL			46
TOTAL			80
GRADE			B-

Comments:

- Emergency standard adds “likely to injure” to inpatient criteria.