

Arizona 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)	Ariz. Rev. Stat. §§ 36-524(A), 36-524(B), 36-521(D), 36-523(C)	<input type="checkbox"/> Authorizes family/enumerated adults (3 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Authorizes any responsible adult (2 pts) (See comment below)	0
2. Quality of emergency petition process (5 pts)	Ariz. Rev. Stat. §§ 36-524(C), 36-525(A), 36-501	<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 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Requires certification by more than one professional (-2 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency evaluation criteria inconsistent with inpatient commitment criteria (-5 pts) (See comment below)	5
3. Emergency hold duration (5 pts)	Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 36-527(A)	<input type="checkbox"/> At least 48-hour hold allowed (3 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> At least 72-hour hold allowed (2 pts) (See comment below)	0
4. Citizen access to court, inpatient petition (5 pts)	Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 36-531(B)	<input type="checkbox"/> Authorizes family/enumerated adults (3 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Authorizes any responsible adult (2 pts)	0
5. Quality of criteria for harm or violence to self or others (up to 10 pts)	Ariz. Rev. Stat. §§ 36-501(8), (9)	<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)	Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 36-501(16)	<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)	Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 36-501(33)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contains explicit criteria (10 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Language is vague/ambiguous (-3 pts)	10
SUBTOTAL			35
PART ONE: Extra Credit			
1. Specifies in which court a petition for inpatient commitment shall be filed (1 pt)	Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 36-501(6)	Superior court	1
Extra Credit			1
PART ONE TOTAL			36

PART TWO: Outpatient Commitment Statute (up to 50 points)

Criterion	Citation	Specifications	Points
1. AOT explicitly authorized (5 pts)	Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 36-540(A)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Requires local government to adopt (-3 pts)	5
2. Citizen access to court for AOT (5 pts)	Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 36-531(B)	<input type="checkbox"/> Authorizes family/enumerated adults (3 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Authorizes any responsible adult (2 pts)	0

		<input type="checkbox"/> Authorizes citizen petition to mental health system only (-2 pts)	
3. Criteria sufficiently broad to provide actual access (up to 10 pts)	Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 36-540(A)	Evaluate applicable provision only: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If inpatient/outpatient criteria are the same: <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) <u>or</u> <input type="checkbox"/> If outpatient criteria are distinct from inpatient criteria: <input 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 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)	Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 36-540(A)		5
5. Procedures sufficiently detailed to guide practitioners (up to 5 pts)	Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 36-540(E)(i)(1)-(6)	<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)	Ariz. Rev. Stat. §§ 36-540(C)(2), 36-540.01		5
7. Specifies procedures and consequences for nonadherence (5 pts)	Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 36-540(E), §36-540.01(C)		5
8. Duration of initial order	Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 36-540(D)	<input type="checkbox"/> = 90 days (2 pts) <u>or</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> > 90 days (5 pts) Up to one year	5
9. Duration of continued order	Ariz. Rev. Stat. §§ 36-540(D), 36-543	<input type="checkbox"/> = 180 days (2 pts) <u>or</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> > 180 days (5 pts) Up to one year	5
SUBTOTAL			45
PART TWO: Extra Credit			
1. Specifies court for AOT (1 pt)	Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 36-501(6)	Superior court	1
2. Court monitoring of voluntary settlement agreements (5 pts)			
Extra Credit			0
PART TWO TOTAL			46
FINAL SCORE			
PART ONE TOTAL			36
PART TWO TOTAL			46
TOTAL			82
GRADE			B-

Comment:

- Any responsible adult may apply for emergency evaluation, but the application is to a screening agency (behavioral health agency) and not to the court.
- Emergency admission may not be longer than 24 hours unless a petition for court-ordered evaluation has been filed.

Once the court has ordered evaluation those inpatient must be evaluated within 72 hours.

- If the application for emergency admission for evaluation procedures are unavailable, a peace officer may only apprehend and transport for evaluation an individual the officer believes is “a danger to self or others,” omitting several alternative grounds for civil commitment.