

Kentucky's Judicial Bench Card for AOT/Tim's Law

KRS 202A.081-083: Court-Ordered Mental Health Outpatient Treatment

What is Assisted Outpatient Treatment/Tim's Law?

AOT is a court-ordered program that ensures people with SMI receive ongoing treatment in the community. With regular court oversight and enhanced outpatient support, AOT helps individuals stay on track with treatment and succeed in their communities.

Eligibility Criteria (All Must Be Met)

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 1. | Must have a serious mental illness as the primary diagnosis. (e.g. bipolar, schizophrenia) |
| 2. | Treatment Non-compliance History , leading to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">o 2+ hospitalizations/arrests in the past 48 months; oro 1+ threat/act of serious harm in past 24 months. |
| 3. | Unlikely to Engage Voluntarily , per clinical evidence. |
| 4. | AOT is the Least Restrictive Alternative <ul style="list-style-type: none">o The person is unlikely to survive safely in the community without supervision.o Repeated hospitalizations or incarcerations.o Community-based treatment is feasible and beneficial. |

Judge's Role and Responsibilities

1. Legal Oversight & Due Process

- Confirm eligibility per KRS 202A.
- Ensure civil hearing protections (counsel, notice, evidence).

2. Collaborative Leadership

- Coordinate with treatment providers, Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC), families, and law enforcement.
- Promote a balance of structure and compassion.

3. Judicial Monitoring

- Hold review/status hearings bi-weekly; can be adjusted based on participant progress.
- Modify plans as needed for compliance and clinical progress.

4. Encouragement & Engagement

- Celebrate progress; use respectful, trauma-informed language.
- Ask open-ended questions to address barriers to treatment.

5. Continued Learning & Consistency

- Stay current on behavioral health best practices.
- Apply consistent standards and clear expectations.

Legal Process Timeline

| STEP | DETAILS | FORMS USED |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1. Petition Filed | By family, law enforcement, clinician, and hospital | AOC-737, AOC-738 |
| 2. Court Review | Appoint counsel, set a hearing | AOC-739 |
| 3. Evaluation | By QMHP ≤ 5 days before petition filing; CMHC has 72 hrs. if ordered. | AOC-738 |
| 4. Hearing | Held within six business days, the respondent has full rights. | |
| 5. Order Issued | Based on findings | AOC-740 |
| 6. Monitoring & Renewal | Up to 360 days, renewable | AOC-741- 743 |

Important Notes:

- AOT does not authorize forced medication outside inpatient settings.
- Medication may be included in the court-ordered treatment plan.
- Emphasize voluntary engagement through judicial leadership.



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