

Washington State Report Card

Last Updated: January 2026

Method and scoring: State involuntary civil commitment laws are evaluated using a 100-point grading scale. The scoring criteria are in accordance with Treatment Advocacy Center’s values and policy. 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)	Wash. Rev. Code § 71.05.153	<input type="checkbox"/> Authorizes family/other adults (3 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Authorizes any responsible adult (2 pts) Designated crisis responder only	0
2. Quality of emergency petition process (5 pts)	Wash. Rev. Code § 71.05.153	<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 type="checkbox"/> Emergency evaluation criteria inconsistent with inpatient commitment criteria (-5 pts)	5
3. Emergency hold duration (5 pts)	Wash. Rev. Code § 71.05.180	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At least 48-hour hold allowed (3 pts) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At least 72-hour hold allowed (2 pts) Up to 120 hours	5
4. Citizen access to court, inpatient petition (5 pts)	Wash. Rev. Code §§ 71.05.150(1), 71.05.201(1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Authorizes family/other adults (3 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Authorizes any responsible adult (2 pts) (see comment 1 below)	3
5. Quality of criteria for harm or violence to self or others (up to 10 pts)	Wash. Rev. Code § 71.05.020(37)	<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)	Wash. Rev. Code § 71.05.020(25)	<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) (see comment 2 below)	10
7. Quality of criteria for psychiatric deterioration (10)	Wash. Rev. Code § 71.05.020(25)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contains explicit criteria (10 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Language is vague/ambiguous (-3 pts)	10
SUBTOTAL			43
PART ONE: Extra Credit			
1. Specifies court a petition for inpatient commitment shall be filed (1 pt)	Wash. Rev. Code §§ 71.05.150(2), 71.05.201(1)	Superior court	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)	Wash. Rev. Code § 71.05.148	<input type="checkbox"/> Requires local government to adopt (-3 pts)	5
2. Citizen access to court for AOT (5 pts)	Wash. Rev. Code § 71.05.148(2)	<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	0

		system only (-2 pts)	
3. Criteria sufficiently broad to provide actual access (up to 10 pts)	Wash. Rev. Code §§ 71.05.020(26), 71.05.148	<p>Evaluate applicable provision only:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> If inpatient/outpatient criteria are the same:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Inpatient criteria include psychiatric deterioration standard (10 pts) <u>or</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> No psychiatric deterioration standard, adequate grave disability standard (5 pts)</p> <p>or</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If outpatient criteria are distinct from inpatient criteria:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allows consideration of length of treatment history ≥ 36 months (2 pts)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Does not exclude periods of incarceration or hospitalization (-1 pt)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Does not limit application to those currently dangerous or unstable (4 pts)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Does not limit to those refusing service or lacking insight (4 pts)</p>	10
4. Authorizes AOT directly from community (5 pts)	Wash. Rev. Code § 71.05.148		5
5. Procedures sufficiently detailed to guide practitioners (up to 5 pts)	Wash. Rev. Code §§ 71.05.148, 71.05.240	<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 type="checkbox"/> Periodic reporting to court required (1 pt) <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal process expressly specified (1 pt)	3
6. Procedures require the treatment plan shared with the court (5 pts)	Wash. Rev. Code § 71.05.585(5)		5
7. Specifies procedures for nonadherence (5 pts)	Wash. Rev. Code § 71.05.590		5
8. Duration of initial order	Wash. Rev. Code §§ 71.05.148(3), 71.05.240(4)(d),	<input type="checkbox"/> = 90 days (2 pts) <u>or</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> > 90 days (5 pts) Up to 18 months	5
9. Duration of continued order		<input type="checkbox"/> = 180 days (2 pts) <u>or</u> <input type="checkbox"/> > 180 days (5 pts) Not specified	0
SUBTOTAL			38
PART TWO: Extra Credit			
1. Specifies court for AOT filing (1 pt)			
2. Court monitoring of voluntary settlement agreements (5 pts)			
Extra Credit			0
PART TWO TOTAL			38

FINAL SCORE	
PART ONE TOTAL	44
PART TWO TOTAL	38
TOTAL	82
GRADE	B-

Comment:

- Joel's Law (Wash. Rev. Code § 71.05.201) allows immediate family members, legal guardians, and Indian Tribes to petition the superior court for initial detention under specific conditions. One such condition is that 48 hours must have passed since the Designated Crisis Responder (DCR) received a request for investigation, and the DCR has not taken action to detain the individual.
- A new standard for gravely disabled passed in 2020 ([SB 5720](#)), but has not yet been implemented due to bed shortages.