Alaska Treatment Law 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 TAC's values and policy recommendations. 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 quality of its outpatient commitment law. *Grades reflect solely what is written in law and not how those laws are implemented or applied.* 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)	☒Authorizes family/enumerated adults (3 pts) ☒Authorizes any responsible adult (2 pts)	5
2. Quality of emergency petition process (5 pts)	Alaska Stat. §§ 47.30.700, 47.30.705, 47.30.710	☐Process specified and reasonable (2 pts) ☒Timelines specified and reasonable (2 pts) ☒Responsible entities identified (1 pt) ☐Requires certification by more than one professional (-2 pts) ☐Emergency evaluation criteria inconsistent with inpatient commitment criteria (-5 pts) ***Unreasonably permits civil custody in carceral settings (See comment 1 below)***	3
3. Emergency hold duration (5 pts)	Alaska Stat. § 47.30.715(g)	☒At least 48-hour hold allowed (3 pts) ☒At least 72-hour hold allowed (2 pts) ***Not to exceed 72 hours***	5
4. Citizen access to court, inpatient petition (5 pts)	Alaska Stat. § 47.30.730(a)	☐Authorizes family/enumerated adults (3 pts) ☐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(15)	☒Contains explicit criteria (10 pts) ☐Language is vague/ambiguous (-3 pts) ☐Harm must be imminent (-3 pts) ***(See comment 2 below)***	10
6. Quality of criteria for grave disability/basic needs (up to 10 pts)	Alaska Stat. § 47.30.915(11)(A)	☒Contains explicit criteria (10 pts) ☐Language is vague/ambiguous (-3 pts) ☐Endangerment must be imminent (-3 pts) ☐Criteria require family to turn person out of home to receive treatment (-3 pts) ☒Unreasonably high risk of harm (-3 pts) ***Requires "complete" neglect of basic needs***	7
7. Quality of criteria for psychiatric deterioration (up to 10 pts)	Alaska Stat. § 47.30.915(11)(B)	☒Contains explicit criteria (10 pts) ☒Language is vague/ambiguous (-3 pts) ***(See comment 3 below)***	7
		SUBTOTAL	37
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	38

PART TWO: Outpatient Commitment Statute (up to 50 points)			
Criterion	Citation	Specifications	Points
1. AOT explicitly authorized (5 pts)	Alaska Stat. § 47.30.735(d)	☐Requires local government to adopt (-3 pts) ***Referred to as "less restrictive alternative"***	5
2. Citizen access to court for AOT (5 pts)	Alaska Stat. § 47.30.730(a)	☐Authorizes family/enumerated adults (3 pts) ☐Authorizes any responsible adult (2 pts) ☐Authorizes citizen petition to mental health system only (-2 pts) ***Two examining mental health professionals***	0
3. Criteria sufficiently broad to provide actual access (up to 10 pts)	Alaska Stat. §§ 47.30.915(11), 47.30.915(15), 47.30.735(d)	**Evaluate applicable provision only:** ☒If inpatient/outpatient criteria are the same: ☒Inpatient criteria include psychiatric deterioration standard (10 pts) or ☐No psychiatric deterioration standard, adequate grave disability standard (5 pts) ***(Partial credit, see comment 4 below)*** **or** ☐If outpatient criteria are distinct from inpatient criteria: ☐Allows consideration of length of treatment history ≥ 36 months (2 pts) ☐Does not exclude periods of incarceration or hospitalization (-1 pt) ☐Does not limit application to those currently dangerous or unstable (4 pts) ☐Does not limit application to those refusing service or currently lacking insight (4 pts)	6
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 during a 72-hour hold***	5
5. Procedures sufficiently detailed to guide practitioners (up to 5 pts)	Alaska Stat. §§ 47.30.730, 47.30.735, 47.30.740	☐Process specified and reasonable (1 pt) ☐Timelines specified and reasonable (1 pt) ☒Responsible entities identified (1 pt) ☐Periodic reporting to court required (1 pt) ☒Renewal process expressly specified (1 pt)	2
6. Procedures require the treatment plan to be shared with the court (5 pts)	Alaska Stat. § 47.30.730(a)(2)	***Statute requires petition to "...specify the treatment and the basis for supporting it" but does not explicitly require a treatment plan***	0
7. Specifies procedures and consequences for nonadherence (5 pts)	Alaska Stat. § 47.30.800		5
8. Duration of initial order	Alaska Stat. § 47.30.735(d)	☐= 90 days (2 pts) or ☐> 90 days (5 pts) ***Not more than 30 days***	0
9. Duration of continued order	Alaska Stat. §§ 47.30.740, 47.30.755(b)	☐= 180 days (2 pts) or ☐> 180 days (5 pts) ***No more than 90 days***	0
		SUBTOTAL	23
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	24

FINAL SCORE	
PART ONE TOTAL	38
PART TWO TOTAL	24
TOTAL	62
TREATMENT LAW GRADE	**D-**

Comments:

1. Alaska Stat. § 47.30.705(a) permits civil detention in a jail or other correctional facility for protective custody purposes while awaiting transportation to a crisis stabilization center, crisis residential center, evaluation facility, or treatment facility.
2. There is a discrepancy in Alaska's commitment standard under Alaska Stat. § 47.30.735(c) as it includes the term "likely to cause harm," while the term defined under Alaska Stat. § 47.30.915(15) is "likely to cause *serious* harm." (emphasis added)
3. Alaska Stat. § 47.30.915(11)(B) does not provide a clear statement of what it means to be "incapable of surviving safely in freedom," a requirement that can lead to narrow interpretation by the courts.
4. 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.